

MOTORING

Get up and go with
the Daytime Cruiser

14

SUMMER LIVING

Light bites, kids' kits
and safety tips

18

PROFILE

From wine trader to
war aid in Bosnia

21

EMPLOYMENT

Go it alone – with
the Prince's help

25

CLASSIFIED

All the best jobs,
bargains and breaks

30

Teachers told: Talk and you're sacked

Local Education Authorities (LEAs) are intimidating teachers to prevent them giving evidence at special educational needs tribunals, a new report claims.

One teacher, called by parents to give evidence at a tribunal, was allegedly told by her LEA that her job was at stake.

"We called the special needs co-ordinator at our child's school on oath," one couple told researchers. "She had been threatened by the LEA and told she wouldn't get a job anywhere else if she went ahead."

The report, *Representing Parents at the Special Educational Needs Tribunal* is published by the Independent Panel for Special Education Advice (IPSEA). It says that, even after winning a tribunal, many parents still wait months for the order to be put

into force, suggesting that some LEAs delay deliberately.

"LEAs are poor losers. Many of them are refusing to accept their legal obligations when a parent succeeds at a tribunal," said IPSEA co-ordinator Katy Simmons.

Penny Haston, whose 14-year-old daughter Kate has cerebral palsy (cp), won a tribunal in March ordering Brent LEA to provide extra welfare support at her special school.

"We have a history of disputes over Kate's welfare provision since 1991. We are still waiting," she said.

A spokeswoman for Brent

LEA said it had needed clarification of the decision but intends to implement it.

In another case, the parents of four-year-old Harriet Jackson, who has cp, face a legal battle to keep her at the National Institute of Conductive Education in Birmingham. The Jacksons believe that the Hungarian techniques used there will help her to enter mainstream education more quickly, but Staffordshire education chiefs said she should attend an LEA nursery.

A tribunal in March found in favour of the Jacksons and told Staffordshire to pay Harriet's

Continued on page 2



You sexy things: The Sexual Freedom Coalition with disabled tv presenter Mik Scarlet (front) descended on Downing Street to protest at police action which halted the Sex Maniacs Ball. The ball raises money for disability charity the Integration Trust.

MARK TEW

Products to help Mobility

**WHEELCHAIRS
WALKING STICKS
WALKERS
SCOOTERS**

"The Complete Range"
Smith & Nephew
Leadership in Worldwide Healthcare

For your FREE MOBILITY BROCHURE, please complete the coupon and send to the address opposite.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____

Smith & Nephew Homecraft Limited
Sidlings Road, Lowmoor Road Ind. Estate,
Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts. NG17 7JZ

Blow to starters in business

Disabled people setting up their own businesses will have to pay towards the cost of special equipment and support under changes to the Government's job assistance scheme Access to Work.

From 1 June, disabled people will have to pay the first £100 towards any assistance and ten per cent of further costs. The new rules do not affect people already trading.

Martin Sissons, Employment and Training Officer for the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR), said they believed the move may deter the self-employed.

"The Access to Work Programme, which has been a great success and helped over 150,000 disabled self-employed people into the workplace, is now imposing a burden on them," he said.

Charities conned

Charities and disability organisations have been warned about "cowboy consultancies" who promise to help them get National Lottery money.

The warning came from Timothy Hornsby, chief executive of the National Lottery Charities Board, at the launch of the third round of grants for health, disability and care last month.

He said a number of opportunists were trying to cash in by suggesting to charities that they would not get grants unless they employed them as consultants. These people were also selling booklets guaranteeing a successful bid, he said.

"Some are misleading; some are just poor value for money. Our forms have been designed to be as simple as possible. You

should not need professional help."

The board will award £160 million in this round.

Meanwhile, Lord Snowdon, president of the ADAPT Trust, an access campaigning charity, has slammed National Lottery committees for paying only "lip-service" to disability access when making awards.

Speaking at the British Gas ADAPT Awards 1996, he said it seemed some applications had been approved without proper assessment or monitoring of access provision.

"The Charities Board, the Sports Councils, the National Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Councils need to reconsider their approach to access

Continued on page 2



Shock to the system: Graham Cunningham rehearsing for Pain, a performance at the Arches, Glasgow, based on his 34 years of dealing with arthritis

MURDO MACLEOD

Tory threat to vote

A Conservative MP is threatening to vote against the Government as speculation mounts that it is planning to overturn amendments to the Community Care (Direct Payments) Bill. The changes could allow elderly people and people with learning disabilities to buy their own care.

“The Government would have to put up a very good argument to prevent me from voting the other way,” said Sir Andrew Bowden, MP for Brighton Kemp-town. The Government currently has a majority of one.

Ministers wanted to restrict payments to physically disabled people under 65 but were defeated at the Bill’s committee stage in April. A date for the Bill to return to the Commons has not been set, despite calls from Labour and disability charities.

Market stall is a winner

A market stall in Warrington that attracts 500 customers a week was a winner in the first Getting the Message Across Awards last month.

The stall is run by the Warrington Disability Information Service. Coordinator Dave Thompson said: “People find it completely natural now to pick up information on benefits, support groups, services, holidays and equipment when they do their weekly shopping.”

“It’s a marvellous idea, taking the formality out of getting information,” said inventor and

tv personality Professor Heinz Wolff. He was presenting the National Information Forum’s (NIF) awards for outstanding achievement in providing information to disabled people.

Other winners were the Dog Rose Trust for its Dorcas Project, tactile plans and commentary for visually impaired visitors in public buildings; Colin Antwis of Fieldsman Trails for his cassettes and tactile maps; RAMP (Route-Finding and Access Maps Project) set up by the Disabled Motorists’ Federation; People First, an organi-

sation of people with learning disabilities, for getting the Disability Discrimination Act produced in picture-text format; London’s Rani Indian Vegetarian Restaurant for introducing a Braille menu; Angus McKenzie of Individual Enterprise for his London Underground tape guide; and inventor Trevor Baylis for the Baygen wind-up radio, produced by disabled people in South Africa, that has brought information to thousands of people in developing countries.

NIF, tel: 0171-404 3846.

Charities conned

Continued from page 1

implementation and to the monitoring procedures to ensure value for money and effective provision,” he said.

A spokesperson for the Arts Council defended its commitment to access but said they had been amazed at how much they had received. “Every distributor has been overwhelmed by the amount of money and applications. We were told we would get £50 million each year but we

have had £300 million.”

Nottingham Playhouse and the Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum were joint winners of the ADAPT award, which recognises standards of access in arts premises. Both venues were presented with £4,000 to be spent on further improvements.

For the Charities Board’s guide, Health, Disability and Care: Your Chance to Apply or a grant application form, tel: (0345) 919191

Teachers warned

Continued from page 1

fees at Birmingham but the authority has appealed to the High Court. The family has no legal aid but intends to fight. “It is a wider issue than just Harriet,” said her mother, Charlotte.

An LEA spokesperson said Harriet could get the same level of therapy at the LEA nursery. “It would cost £20,000 per year to send her to this special school. If we have to provide funding to send children like Harriet to places like the Birmingham school, we won’t have the money to run our own units for all the other children in Staffordshire.”

Donations make £3.5 billion

Total voluntary donations for the UK’s top 500 charities rose by two per cent between 1992-93 and 1994-95 despite the effect of the National Lottery says an annual report.

Dimensions of the Voluntary Sector 1996, published by the Charities Aid Foundation, says total income for those charities was £3.5 billion in 1994-1995. Physical disability came fifth in the list, receiving 6.5 per cent of donations.

Priced £30. Tel: (01403) 710971

Disability NOW

Published by
Scope, 12 Park Crescent
London W1N 4EQ
Editorial: 0171-636 5020
Fax: 0171-436 4582
Minicom: 0171-436 9914
Editor Mary Wilkinson
Assistant Editor Vacant
Reporter Rod Hermeston
Editorial/Production
Assistant Alison Miller
Editorial Assistant/
Secretary Hannah Crabtree
Design Consultant
Patrick Baglee

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Manager Gayle Mooney
Assistant Wray Norton
Tel: 0171-383 4575

ADVERTISING
Richard Gresham, Kingslea
Press Ltd, 12 Dock Offices,
Surrey Quays Road, London
SE16 2XU Tel: 0171-252
1362 Fax: 0171-237 8019

TYPESETTING
Banbury Graphics, Suite 10,
Borough House, Marlborough
Road, Banbury, Oxon OX16
8TH Tel: (01295) 272722

PRINTING
CV Litho, Banbury, Oxon and
Challenge Print Management
Tel: (01604) 787633

DISTRIBUTION
MMC, Octagon House, White
Hart Meadows, Ripley, Wok-
ing, Surrey GU23 6HR
ISSN 0958-4676

The views expressed in *Disability Now* are not necessarily those of Scope.

Copyright
©1996 Scope.

ABC
BUSINESS PRESS

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ALDERSLEY EXCEL RANGE



EXCEL TREKKA

- First of its kind
- Up to 50 stone carrying capacity
- Tested by Blackpool Wheelchair Evaluation Centre
- Juniors and the smaller adult up to 10 stones
- Wide wheels for stability
- Ideal trekker
- Suspension for comfort
- Manoeuvrable and compact



- Customized to suit client
- Carer or user control
- Versatile indoor and outdoor

EXCEL SUPREME

Notability



Aldersley Battery Chairs Limited
24-26 Old Meeting Road, Coseley,
West Midlands WV14 8HB
Tel: 0121 520 6942
Fax: 0121 522 4833

Our premier powered wheelchair!

NEWTON

Royale

NEWTON



The ‘Royale’ is a new addition to the Newton range of powered wheelchairs. The compact and easily foldable design of the wheelchair is equally at home indoors and with 200mm castors, rear wheel traction and kerbclimber, outdoors. The Royale’s high manoeuvrability, smooth comfortable ride and high specification sets a new standard in its class. Additional seating options are available to upgrade this wheelchair to even higher standards.

Return the coupon below to Newton Products
Garretts Green Lane Birmingham B33 0SQ for further details:

Name _____ DNE/96
Address _____
OR CALL THE SALES HOTLINE: 0121-785 0355/6

Stop press

Motability TV probe

Labour veto

A Labour government will not introduce a new civil rights act for disabled people, Shadow Cabinet Minister for Disabled People Tom Clarke told the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union Disabled Members' Conference in May. But he said Labour would "uphold civil rights" and promised a commission to take up cases of discrimination.

Fine for station?

London Underground could be fined up to £20,000 for failing to operate facilities for disabled people.

Hillingdon Station in Middlesex, which won a design award from the Civic Trust, has been criticised by the Disablement Association. Hillingdon Borough Council for shutting toilets adapted for disabled people and padlocking a gate to a ramp to prevent able-bodied people using them. Now the council plans to force London Underground to keep the facilities open or take the company to court.

A spokesperson for London Underground said a station supervisor was always on duty to open the facilities.

Tenants 'terrorised'

Disabled tenants on an estate in Colchester, Essex are allegedly being terrorised by children as young as four. People in the John Grooms Housing Association properties say they have been targeted by the children who throw stones at them, shout taunts, damage the properties and have tried to break in. The association is investigating.

Headway report

Support for people who have had a traumatic brain injury and their carers needs to be improved says a new report commissioned by the charity Headway. Support for those living in the community needs to be more highly organised but there should also be better residential provision for those with more severe injuries, it says.

Assessing the Long-term Residential Needs of People with Traumatic Brain Injury, £20, tel: 0115-924 0800

Volunteer Week

A report on volunteering will be launched at a conference at the Volunteer Centre-UK in London on 5 June to coincide with UK Volunteer Week (1-7 June).

Volunteer Centre-UK tel: 0171-388 9888

A tv investigation into the charity Motability and the commercial company Motability Finance Ltd (MFL), claims that the partnership of high street banks lending money for the £400 million a year Motability scheme is operating a monopoly, has made high profits, overcharged disabled customers, and kept accounts secret.

Channel 4 *Dispatches* on 8 May produced internal reports and memos, and spoke to specialists.

Ken Peasnell, professor of

accounting at the University of Lancaster, said: "Here we have a charity which has seen considerable adverse publicity about the financial deal it set up with the banks, and it is taxpayers' money, yet there's nothing in the public domain which enables us to work out what is the profit."

Barrister Francesca Quint, a specialist in charity law, said of the Motability Tenth Anniversary Trust: "The bank is trying to gain credit for making generous gifts to the charity, whereas all it

is doing is recycling the money it has taken from disabled people in the first place, which of course comes from the taxpayer."

She was also worried about an apparently commercial relationship between MFL and Motability and a possible conflict of interest among Motability governors also involved with MFL, the banks or auditors KPMG. She concluded: "In my view there is a sufficient case for the Charity Commissioners (CC) to ask questions and if

necessary start an enquiry."

A CC spokesperson said no action would be taken before the National Audit Office (NAO) report was published and Motability chairman Lord Sterling would not pre-empt the report with comments. But the report has been delayed again, to July, said an NAO spokesperson.

"I am appalled," said Stephen Bradshaw, Motability Users Liaison Group chairman. "What is going on?" It is being "virtually re-written", DN learned.

Man duped by council

A council who secretly filmed an employee washing his car so as to discredit his claim to be disabled used "unacceptable practices", the Court of Appeal has ruled. Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council claimed George Drummond, 62, had exaggerated injuries suffered while working as a council maintenance fitter for which he won £190,000 in 1994.

A private investigator, posing as a market researcher, persuaded Mr Drummond to take part in a project supposed to be about car shampoos.

Dismissing the council's appeal, Appeal Court judge Lord Justice Hutchison said they had deceived Mr Drummond and that the film did not prove he had exaggerated the injuries.



"It's the private detective we hired – he's claiming he injured his back while collecting evidence for us!"

DON'T MISS THE THREE COUNTIES INFODEX

Sponsored by Hereford & Worcester County Council

A major event for people with disabilities, older people and carers at

The THREE Counties Showground

Malvern, Worcestershire

June 26th 10am-6pm & June 27th 10am-5pm

• ample free parking • accessible facilities

On Show:-

• extensive range of products & services • charities & voluntary groups • live music, dance and theatre performances • art • fashion • special features & workshops

FREE ADMISSION

For further information contact Sheila Davenport on 01359 268614 fax 01359 268666

HOW TO CHOOSE A POWERCHAIR OR SCOOTER

New, free booklet explains and guides, ensuring that you make the right decision

Considering buying a mobility vehicle in the next few months? Then you should know about a new, free advisory booklet which will undoubtedly help you to make the right decision.

The easy to read booklet contains all the answers you need to make sense of what can be a complicated affair. It tells you about all the different models available, how they work, what happens when they go wrong and the best way to go about buying a scooter or powerchair.

"The In's and Out's of buying a mobility vehicle" also arms you with a series

of questions that you will want to ask before you make your mind up, giving you all the information before you make the important choice.

Get all the facts. Produced by the Mobility Matters Network of mobility specialists "The In's and Out's of buying a mobility vehicle" is available now, free of charge. All you have to do is simply call our 24 Hour Booklet Request Line on 0990 134 130 or write to Mobility Matters, Dept DN6, Freepost NH0170, Kettering, NN14 6YA. A booklet will be sent to you within 14 days from one of the Mobility Matters local Distributors.

Bid on Bill for carers

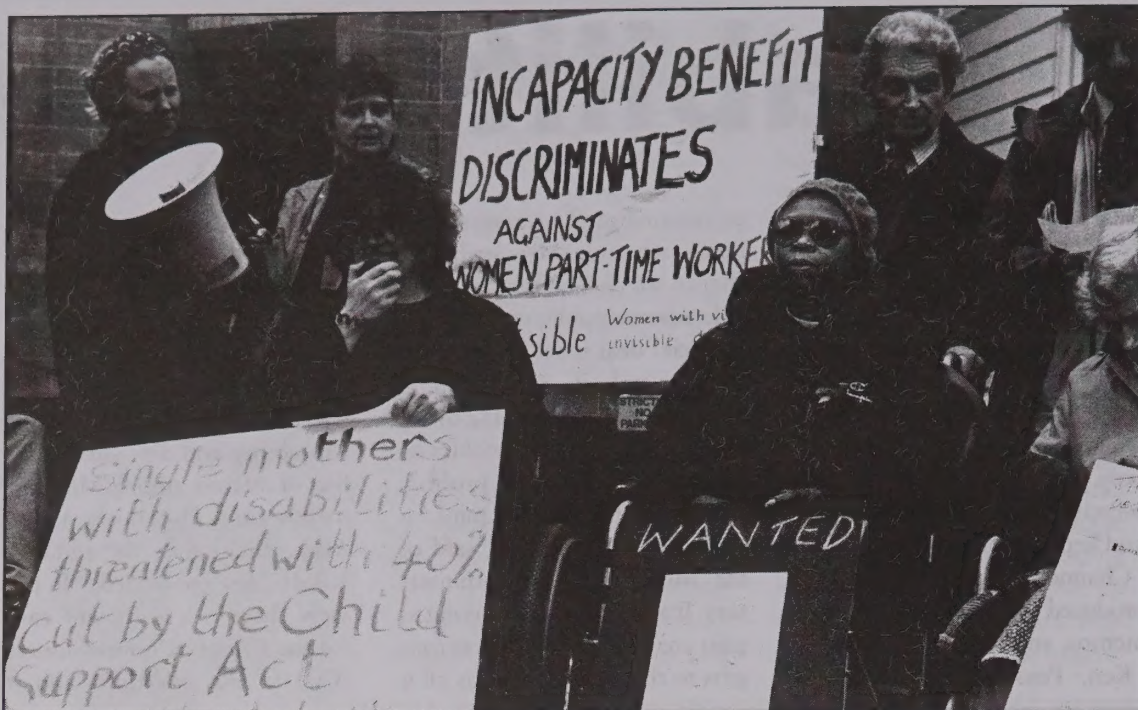
A new Bill to give disabled people and carers a legal right to a break has been introduced in the House of Lords.

The Disabled Persons and Carers (Short-term Breaks) Bill, sponsored by Mencap chairman Lord Rix, had its second reading in April. Without Government support, however, it stands no chance of becoming law.

Up to 100,000 adults with severe learning disabilities live with their families, said Lord Rix, but only one in five is able to afford a holiday.

With the cost of a break around £50 a week, he estimated, the bill for helping some 20,000 adults who do not even get a day service would be £1 million. Balancing this against what carers save the State, he asked: "How can £1 million in this context be too costly?"

Replying for the Government, Baroness Miller of Hendon said that she knew from personal experience the value of a break, having cared for her parents. But the Government had already made an extra £30 million available for respite care in 1995-6. To introduce another assessment would be "overly bureaucratic".



Anniversary demo: Members of Incapacity Action London demonstrate at the Department of Social Security headquarters at Whitehall one year after Incapacity Benefit was introduced

PAUL FREELEY

Housing grants relief

Carers and relatives of disabled people, other than spouses or partners, will no longer be expected to contribute to the cost of home adaptations under a new housing Bill.

The Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Bill scraps mandatory renovation grants for which anyone can apply to make improvements to their home and makes them discretionary.

But the system of mandatory and discretionary Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) is retained.

Disabled people can apply for a means-tested DFG of up to £20,000, or £24,000 in Wales, towards the cost of making their home suitable to live in. In future, only the means of the disabled person, their parents (for applicants under 18) partners and spouses will matter.

In another Government concession, disabled people who live in mobile home parks will now be eligible for DFGs.

But the Bill is not all good news. In a much criticised move, councils will be given the power to defer payment of DFGs for up to 12 months.

MPs were also worried that the decision to make renovation grants discretionary could leave elderly people in unsafe, cold or damp housing.

Bullying ignored

Disabled children can suffer bullying, exclusion and poor performance at school due to a lack of basic awareness about their conditions, MPs were told in April.

Giving evidence to a select committee inquiry on children's health, Geraldine Peacock, chief executive of the National Autistic Society, said about 83 per cent of children with Asperger's syndrome had experienced bullying.

Schools sometimes fail to

realise the strain that families with disabled children can be under, said Christina Funnell, chief executive of the National Eczema Society. Ms Funnell, who has two children with eczema, said some pupils might have to face school after having had their night's sleep interrupted every two hours to have bedding changed or creams applied.

The witnesses, who also included the British Dyslexia Association, the British Dia-

betic Association and the British Epilepsy Association, called for clear guidelines to be issued to education authorities on the care of children with chronic medical needs.

Claims costs

The Government is expecting a bill of £1,131,000 a year for claims to industrial tribunals under the Disability Discrimination Act. Industry minister John Taylor said the Government predicted 3,000 applications a year, costing £377 each.

THE PERSONAL MOBILITY SPECIALISTS



Consult our specialists in:

- Powered wheelchairs and scooters
- Lightweight manual wheelchairs
- Overhead and mobile hoists
- Stair lifts
- Electric lifting and reclining chairs

For a FREE Home Trial* or FREE Brochure
Call us now

* (Home Trial for powered scooters or wheelchairs)

THE ARMCHAIR CENTRE
SUPPLIERS OF: A.J. WAY
AND C&R WALL
FURNITURE



Main agents for:
Invacare-Carters, Booster, Sunrise
Medical and Minivator, Quickie and
Suntee. (All supplied to Shopmobility)
All equipment fully guaranteed.
Insurance and extended warranty
available.



FINANCE
AVAILABLE
ON ALL
EQUIPMENT
(subject to status)

Also Mobility
Allowance accepted

PART
EXCHANGE
WELCOME

FREEPHONE
0800
136921

ICR MOBILITY

Established 1953



FREEPHONE
0800
136921

ICR SOUTHERN MOBILITY CENTRE, 1 Stanwell Rd., Penarth, Cardiff CF64 2AB
ICR NORTHERN CENTRE, 100 Derby Rd., Liverpool L20 1BP

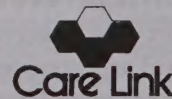


RESPITE HOLIDAY CARE NURSING FOR ELDERLY AND YOUNGER PHYSICALLY DISABLED PEOPLE

RESIDENTIAL CARE

Care Link offers a high standard of care 24 hours a day for clients with all levels of physical disability at our homes in Southport and Colwyn Bay. We aim to enhance the quality of life for all our residents with dedicated staff, excellent facilities and an ongoing programme of social and recreational activities within and outside the homes. Carers are welcome to accompany clients on holiday breaks if required.

Queens Court Residential Care and
Nursing Home, Colwyn Bay.
Promenade Rest Home, Southport.
Winston House Nursing Home, Southport.



Write, telephone or fax for an information pack:
Care Link, 10-12 The Promenade, Southport, PR8 1QY.
TEL: (01704) 545050 Fax: (01704) 545200

Lottery joy for centre

A new national sports centre to train disabled people as sports teachers has been awarded £1.79 million of National Lottery cash.

The National Sports Training Centre for People with Disabilities, the first of its kind in Europe, will be a key national coaching and training centre. Managed by the Association for Spinal Injury Research Rehabil-

tation and Reintegration (ASPIRE), it is an extension to the Mike Heaffey Sports and Rehabilitation Centre at Stanmore.

Facilities will include a four-lane 10x25m swimming pool and a computer training suite for sports management courses.

The award, announced by Trevor Brooking, chairman of the Lottery Sports Fund panel,

meets half the cost of the project, which is co-financed by the Allied Dunbar Charitable Trust.

Tanni Grey, Paralympic gold medallist and a member of the Lottery Sports Fund Panel, said it was much-needed.

"It will provide a first-class centre for coaching and training courses to ensure that disabled competitors get equal access to sporting facilities," she said.

In touch? Health minister John Bowis (*right*) experienced a different kind of walk-about from the one dignitaries usually enjoy on a visit to Reading. Attending the graduation ceremony of students of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association School of Rehabilitation Studies in May, he wore opaque spectacles and used a white stick to discover some of the challenges faced by visually impaired people in town centres.



In brief

Carers' helpline

A helpline aimed at carers is being piloted in the South-East. The Community Information Line, set up by Carers National Association, the Family Welfare Association and Scope in partnership with British Gas, offers support, information on carers' groups and general advice. It is set to go nationwide later this year.

Community Information Line:
(0800) 100000

TUC legal hints

The Trades Union Congress (TUC) has launched *The Disability Discrimination Act 1995*, giving hints on how union officers can use the law when representing individual disabled members. Also from the TUC, an information pack, *Accessible Documents*, contains advice on how to get Braille and other types of transcription made. Both cost £2, including p&cp.

TUC, tel: 0171-636 4030

College's £5,000 award

A Welsh college has won a national award for a computer programme which allows a deaf woman with cerebral palsy to study without paper. Bridgend College, Mid Glamorgan won the Beacon Award and £5,000 for the programme developed by its special educational needs unit to help Natalie Pearce, 27, with a City and Guilds course.

New ADAPT chief

Ann Packard (*right*) has been made the first full-time director of the A D A P T Trust (Access for Disabled People to Arts Premises Today). She succeeds founder trustee Geoffrey Lord who has served as honorary director since ADAPT was set up in 1989.



MIRA

WATLING STREET • NUNEATON
WARWICKSHIRE

FRIDAY • SATURDAY
• SUNDAY •

14/15/16 JUNE 1996

Open 10am till 5pm daily

Supported by

Motability

RAC



- ▶ A WIDE RANGE OF ADAPTED CARS ON SHOW
- ▶ TEST DRIVE THE LATEST MODELS
- ▶ 2 TEST TRACKS
- ▶ SIDE SHOWS
- ▶ HELICOPTER RIDES

Please remember to bring your
Full or Provisional Licence

TEL: ORGANISERS:

01226 386677

MOBILITY IN ACTION

THE **FIRST** WEST MIDLANDS
MOBILITY ROADSHOW FOR
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
INCLUDING:

CAR MANUFACTURERS

VEHICLE CONVERSIONS

MOBILITY EQUIPMENT

CAR ADAPTATIONS

WHEELCHAIRS

SCOOTERS

ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES

BUSES

CARAVANS

ORGANISATIONS

CHARITIES

BIKES

*Plus Aids and Equipment
for the Elderly and Disabled*

FREE ENTRY!

DMP PROMOTIONS UK LTD.,
BARN COTTAGE, 38 LAWRENCE CLOSE
HIGHAM, BARNLEY S75 1PE FAX: 01226 390777

Sunny side up in Majorca

Disability Now readers Gordon and Doreen Little from Gloucester enjoyed their dream holiday in April, courtesy of specialist travel firm Access Travel.

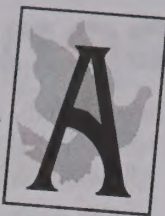
They won a week's holiday in Palma, Majorca in a competition exclusive to *DN* (*DN, January*). "It was a nice rest. We thoroughly enjoyed it," said Gordon.

They stayed in the luxurious new Aparthotel Voranova where they took advantage of swimming pools, sun terrace, gardens and restaurant. They enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere. "It was sedate - no lager louts or anything like that," Gordon added.

As well as soaking up the sun, the couple drove up into the mountains in a complimentary hire car. But the best part of the

holiday for Gordon was a trip in a submarine. "I always wondered what it would be like 20 metres under the sea. Seeing all the fish was a new experience."

So would the couple be going back there next year? "I'd certainly recommend it," said Gordon "but I'd like to see somewhere different next time."



Spanish toast: Gordon and Doreen Little raise a glass to *DN*


Huntleigh
MOBILITY



The unique **Reflex** power chair from Huntleigh Mobility gives the perfect new angle on life - it offers a lifting seat to help you when rising from the chair, and an optional electric reclining backrest. At the touch of a button you can gently relax, or smoothly move to a standing position.

The **Reflex** power chair is available in a superb range of colours and finishes, to reflect your lifestyle!

THE REFLEX™ Riser Reclining Power Chair *A New Angle on Life ...*



fully raised, to assist when rising



normal upright travelling position



electric backrest to gently recline you

**TEL : FREEPHONE
0800 136275**

**HUNTLEIGH MOBILITY
FREEPOST CORBY
NORTHANTS NN18 8BR**

Please send me more information on :

The Reflex Power Chair ☐ Other Power Chairs ☐

Name

Tel

Address

Postcode

DN 6 96

Half at risk of asthma

Almost half the population could have had breathing problems such as asthma by their early thirties, according to researchers at St George's Hospital, London.

The team, led by David Strachan, looked at information on 18,559 people from the 1958 British national child development study, whose medical history has been followed since birth. They found that 43 per cent of 33-year-olds had experienced wheezing illnesses.

They found that the main risk of adult asthma is a history of smoking and hay fever, while mothers run a major risk of giving birth to a child with asthma if they smoke while they are pregnant.

Award for lecturer

Work by Charles Herd, a deaf lecturer in sign language, has brought him an award from a national charity.

Mr Herd, who works at the City Lit Centre for Deaf People in London, received the Joseph Maitland Robinson Award from the Council for the Advancement of Communications with Deaf People (CACDP). He was presented with it at Westminster Central Hall, London by newscaster Trevor McDonald.

Hi-tech prize

An artificial leg which relies on a computer to allow above knee amputees to alter their speed has won two top awards for its makers.

Chas A Blatchford and Sons won the Prince of Wales Award for Innovation and the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement for the Endolite Intelligent Prosthesis Plus (IP+).

Care cost fear

Plans by the Government to reform the way care for elderly people is provided and financed have been pronounced "disappointing" by campaigners in the field.

The new measures, planned to be introduced next year, shift the focus of paying for care from the State to the individual. They encourage people to take out insurance to cover the cost of care in later life.

People already in care or about to need it – including severely disabled people – will be urged to buy an annuity, paying a fixed sum for the rest of their expected life span.

At present people have to contribute to their care costs if they have savings of more than £10,000 and full costs if their assets are over £16,000.

Mervyn Kohler, head of public affairs at Help The Aged, said he was glad a debate was under

way. "I think what the Government has come up with is disappointing, but at least we have got some sort of consultation going. The present system is unsustainable.

"The concept of insurance as a principle is fair enough. Social care is something that society could provide on an insurance basis. Whether it's national or done as a private system is a matter of political taste."

Ideally, he said, Help the Aged would prefer to see an insurance system run on an income-related basis.

He added: "The elderly say they would like to see more done to help them with care in their own homes, whereas the proposed changes are looking to the institutional end of things".

Sally Greengross, director-general of Age Concern, said the Government needed to

address the problem of lack of confidence in the system.

"If older people are being encouraged to take out a policy now which they may not need to use for many years, a guarantee must be in place for these schemes well into the future," she said. "These proposals must not encourage health authorities to cut back on NHS long-stay provision, which has been a problem in the past."

Pauline Thompson of the Disablement Income Group said she had yet to study the full report but feared that it would really only help the better off.

"At first sight, the package doesn't appear to offer very much to people on very low incomes.

"What worries me about insurance is that insurers tend to cream off the best risks and the premium is lower for those least likely to need it."



Esther Rantzen and daughter Emily (front) with Luke Merchant and Sarah Keeler at the launch of Action for ME's Year of the Child

ME charity launches

TV presenter Esther Rantzen has launched Action for ME's Year of the Child campaign to raise awareness of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) among children.

She was accompanied by her daughter, Emily Wilcox, who has the disabling condition.

"I have decided to talk publicly about this to draw attention to the dimension and severity of this illness and the way it affects children and to protest at the way children and their families are all too frequently treated by doctors, nurses, psychiatrists and therapists," said Ms Rantzen.

"I thought I was lazy and weak

and failing in every possible way, so for me it was a blissful relief to be diagnosed and allowed to think that I had an illness, not some psychological disorder," said 18-year-old Emily, who now uses a wheelchair.

Jane Colby, a former head teacher who has ME, has written Action for ME's new Children's Charter, aimed at teachers and other professionals. It outlines the right to have their educational, medical and care needs met with understanding.

For a copy of the charter send a SAE to Action for ME, PO Box 1302, Wells BA5 2WE.



Computer man Geoff Busby

IT heralds new age of opportunity

Advances in information technology such as virtual reality, multimedia and artificial intelligence hold massive potential for disabled people, computer expert Geoff Busby told a conference in Belfast in May.

Mr Busby, who has cerebral palsy and is chairman of the British Computer Society Disability Group, said: "My mind bounds when I think of having virtual experiences when my disability bars me from the real ones." Word-processing packages were one example of how artificial intelligence could predict the user's needs, he said.

The Training and Employment Agency conference brought together disabled people and business representatives to study advances in technology and jobs that have been created as a result.

Scots miss out

Disabled people in Scotland are unaware of community care services or are too worried about cost to ask for help, says a new report.

Published by Disability Scotland, *Community Care – The Well Kept Secret?* details people's views on care in the community provision up to March 1996 when the old regional councils were reorganised into

local councils. The report also finds that comprehensive assessments of a disabled person's and carer's needs are rarely carried out and respite care is not the norm.

A further survey will look into provision under the new authorities.

Disability Scotland, tel: 0131-229 8632

THERA•POSTURE

Stay Independent in Comfort Automatic Adjustable Bed

Independence and comfort at the touch of a button

Theraposture offer a carefully thought-out range of products to help those with mobility problems enjoy the independence and comfort of their own homes.

Suppliers to DHS, and Health Authorities



Relieves:
• Back and chest problems
• Hiatus hernia
• Arthritic pain.



Head up
Eat, read or
watch TV in
comfort



Feet up
Improve
circulation,
reduce fluid
retention



Variable Height
For easier
nursing or
getting in and
out

FOR A FREE BROCHURE
OR DEMONSTRATION,
PLEASE 'PHONE
(0985)
847788



THERA•POSTURE

Theraposture Limited,
FREEPOST, Warminster, Wilts., BA12 8TZ

Fill in this coupon or phone for a FREE Brochure – no stamp needed

Please tick for brochure
☐ Beds ☐ Chairs ☐ Transfer System

Name

Address

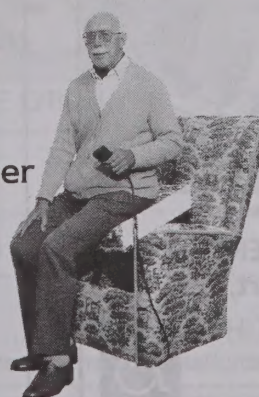
Tel

Post Code

DIN/6/96

The Automatic Seat Lift Chair & AutoLift Slumber Recliner

- Stands you up
- Sits you down
- Nice and gently
- At the touch of a button.



Our quality
assurance
complies
with BS5750

Boost on buses for Blackpool

Buses purpose-designed for disabled people are being introduced in Blackpool this month.

The eight vehicles bought by Blackpool Transport Services (BTS) for £85,000 each feature low platforms, larger destination signs, markers on grab rails for visually impaired people indicating where to pay and space for one wheelchair.

BTS is also training drivers in disability awareness and all drivers will carry touch cards to aid deaf people in asking for their destination. Three bus stops along the route will feature specially-raised kerbs.

Fylde Coast Disability Forum, who were one of the groups advising BTS, have welcomed the new service.

"Although it is only on one route and Government safety restrictions dictated only one wheelchair space per bus, we are nevertheless very pleased," said secretary Peter Thornton.

Paving the way

The largest area of tactile pavement in the country has been installed at the University of Central England, Birmingham. Four different surfaces warn visually-impaired people of hazards ahead or provide a continuous guidance strip across open spaces.

Freeline at risk

A leaked Government questionnaire suggests that a free benefits inquiry line may be closed as part of cutbacks.

The Department of Social Security (DSS) Freeline service gives advice to claimants. Based in 11 centres around the country, it answered 3.25 million calls in 1995.

The document, leaked to Shadow Social Security Secretary Chris Smith and marked "restricted", says: "Presuming Freeline was to close, please profile how the staff could be absorbed into your district/business unit against anticipated vacancies."

Another free service, the Benefit Inquiry Line for Disabled People, will probably stay open, Labour believes.

But Mr Smith is concerned that many disabled people, unaware of their entitlement, will not claim Income Support, Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance if Freeline is closed.

"It's incredible that the Government which gave us the farce of the Cones Hotline is considering axing a real lifeline for hundreds of thousands of disabled people," he said.

"It's typical of the Tories to want to close something that actually works."

A spokesman for the Benefits Agency said all its services, including Freeline, were being reviewed.

"The results of the review will be evaluated in the context of all our advice service running

costs," added the spokesman.

Meanwhile the DSS is to have its equality monitoring budget halved, it has emerged.

The decision by Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley means that surveys across the department will be cancelled.

The Council of Civil Service Unions (CCSU) is concerned that cuts will put ethnic groups at risk but also expressed doubts over the department's continued commitment to creating opportunities for disabled people.

"While the Civil Service does not have a bad record on equal opportunities superficially, the real risk is that it will be the first thing to go out the door," said CCSU secretary Charles Cochrane.

In brief

Pressure on NHS

Councils who delay placing people in nursing and residential homes to save money are putting pressure on the NHS, according to a report from the Local Government Management Board (LGMB). It also found that the number of people using home care services had risen by a third between 1992 and '94 but care was increasingly focused on higher levels of need.

Community Care Trends is available from LGMB, tel: (01582) 451166

DPHS goes national

The Disabled Persons Housing Service has opened a national office in Wetherby to coordinate support for its six regional offices. The housing service charity provides help and advice to disabled people on a variety of housing issues.

National DPHS, tel: (01937) 588580

Advice on sex abuse

Advice on how to cope with cases of sex abuse against people with learning disabilities has been published by the Association of Directors of Social Services and Napsac (National Association for the Protection of Children and Adults). Aimed at social services departments, it outlines procedures to follow when cases arise and makes recommendations about investigating abuse allegations.

Napsac, tel: 0115 978 1598

Plan ahead...

A firm of funeral planners has produced a Braille version of its brochure. Chosen Heritage Ltd of East Grinstead also publishes information in large print format and on tape.

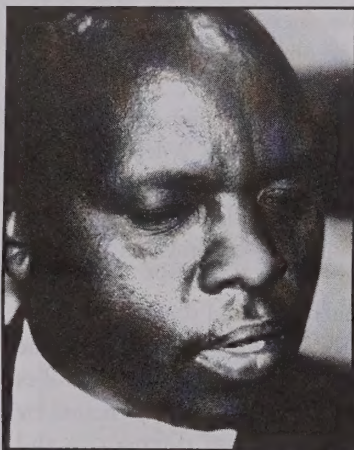
More subtitles?

Proposed changes to the Broadcasting Bill to improve access to television for deaf and hard of hearing people have been welcomed by the Royal National Institute for Deaf People. If they go ahead, it means broadcasters must ensure that 95 per cent of programmes are subtitled and ten per cent offer sign language interpretation.

Young swimmers

Neil Aitkin from Glasgow, Dervis Konuralp from London, both 15, and 16-year-old Lara Ferguson from Glenrothes have been selected for the first time for the Great Britain swimming squad for the Paralympics in Atlanta in August.

Lack of welfare hampers Kenya



Sam Kabue: hopes to establish a disability commission

A Kenyan man who founded a national organisation to promote disabled rights says lack of Government help is a key problem for disabled people in his country.

Speaking during a visit to Christian Aid Britain, Sam Kabue, 45, said Kenya lacked any form of social welfare for disabled people.

"There is no equipment available for them in education. It's the same as telling you you cannot go to school," he said.

Sam, who became blind at 16,

is founder chairman of the United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK), which he formed as part of his work for the National Council of Churches of Kenya. He also sits on a Government committee which has drafted an anti-discrimination law currently being considered by the Kenyan government.

"We hope to have a disability commission rather than individuals having to go to court. I do not know whether we will get it as money is short," he said.

DO YOU OR A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY HAVE PROBLEMS WITH A SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR YOUR COUNCIL? ARE YOU GETTING THE EDUCATION, COMMUNITY CARE OR SERVICES YOU NEED?

David Ruebain is a disabled solicitor specialising in education, community care and local government law. He is committed to the disability movement and has been involved in the campaign for civil rights legislation for disabled people. We also offer direct access for deaf people, through a lawyer fluent in British Sign Language.

Legal Aid work undertaken.

In addition, we specialise in offering training on aspects of education and disability law and also on the Disability Discrimination Act.

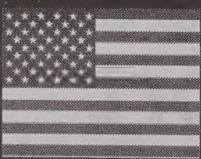
For free initial advice contact him at:

DAVID LEVENE & CO.
SOLICITORS
Ashley House
235-239 High Road
Wood Green
London
N22 4HF

Telephone: 0181-881 7777

Minicom: 0181-881 6764

Facsimile: 0181-889 6395



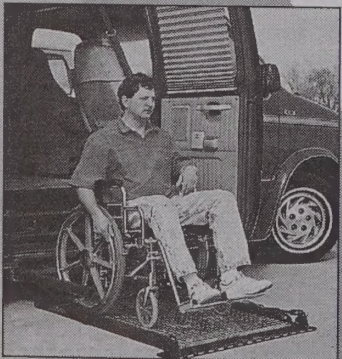
SHERROD LUXURY AMERICAN PEOPLE CARRIERS

NEW LUXURY AMERICAN DAYVANS ADAPTED FOR THE DISABLED ARE NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH MOTOBILITY.



EACH VEHICLE IS BUILT TO YOUR NEEDS AS AN INDIVIDUAL, AND OFFERS LUXURY TRANSPORT AND SAFETY.
PRICES FROM £24,950.

STANDARD FEATURES:
★ POWERFUL V8 ENGINE
★ AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION.
★ AIR CONDITIONING.
★ POWER WINDOWS/LOCKS.
★ PRIVACY GLASS.
★ WHEELCHAIR LIFT.
★ 12 MONTHS WARRANTY.



FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND A BROCHURE CONTACT SOLE UK CONCESSIONAIRES

THE DAVID BOATWRIGHT PARTNERSHIP
Sherrod House, Chilford Court,
Braintree, Essex CM7 2QS
Tel: (01376) 552399
Fax: (01376) 552411



Whose life is it anyway?

Rod Hermeston reports on the High Court ruling that doctors can allow a severely disabled man to die if he falls ill and, *right*, hears conflicting views on the judgement

A High Court decision in April giving doctors permission to allow a severely brain damaged man to die if he has a heart attack or serious infection has reopened the debate about the value of a disabled person's life.

Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court Family Division, said that doctors would not have to resuscitate the 23-year-old man, known as R, if he has a heart attack. He left it to doctors to decide whether to administer antibiotics if R develops a severe infection. Medics would need the permission of at least one parent.

R lives on "the level of a newborn infant", the court was told. He has cerebral palsy and severe epilepsy, suffers repeated chest infections, has stomach ulcers and cannot chew but he smiles when cuddled and reacts to pain.

After he was admitted to hospital five times in 1995, doctors at South Buckinghamshire NHS Trust began to operate a 'do not resuscitate' policy with the agreement of his parents and the manager of the residential care home where he lives.

The court heard that heart mas-

sage could result in further damage to the five-stone man.

In his ruling, Sir Stephen said: "His parents, his doctors and the devoted and selfless care workers will continue to spare no effort to make his life as bearable and as comfortable as is possible until a crisis occurs which will result in nature taking its course and R being relieved of intolerable suffering."

Sir Stephen said he was satisfied that the policy met with British Medical Association and Royal College of Nursing guidelines.

The case came to light after staff at the day centre R attended expressed concern over his medical treatment. But R's parents are angry at them for bringing the case to court.

Health trust chief executive Roy Darby said: "We will continue to offer the family the strongest support."

In a separate development, a RCN conference voted three to one in favour of a law backing 'living wills', giving patients the right to refuse treatment which artificially prolongs life. The move reverses the previous RCN policy.

DISABLED PEOPLE

Glynn Vernon, a vice-chairman of Scope who has cerebral palsy, was appalled at the judgement.

"It is a very dangerous precedent," he said. "I think that quality of life is devalued all the time because it is always thought of in able bodied terms by able bodied people. There are serious implications for every disabled person with the way the whole issue is going."

Bob Findlay, chair of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP) who also has cerebral palsy, said: "If we set precedents through court cases where the framework is based on a very tragedy-orientated perception of illness, impairment and quality of life, then that is going to have real implications."

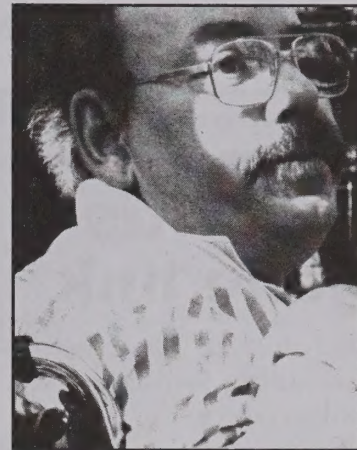
"BCODP has been concerned for a number of years that we seem to be sliding not only into a debate but a practice of euthanasia, almost through the back door. We feel that the views of disabled people are not being considered."

Sculptor Adam Reynolds, who has muscular dystrophy, thought it was reasonable not to treat R if it could harm him or he was unlikely to recover.

"If the judgement was based on mental capacity then I would be outraged but it does not strike me that is the argument."

But he thought publicity about

the case might give the impression that the decision had been made on the grounds of quality of life and could reinforce the kind of prejudice which led to medical advice to abort babies with Down's Syndrome.



Appalled: Scope vice-chairman Glynn Vernon slams the ruling

PARENT

The father of a ten-year-old with severe cerebral palsy who did not want to be named thought that it was legitimate to take quality of life into account.

"I would strongly support the judgement. I am greatly concerned about our son's quality of life. If he developed a life-threatening condition, I would regard it as a sensible decision to allow him to die."

It was not possible to predict the extent of recovery from serious illnesses, he argued, and the child's condition could worsen.

"I don't think you can just look at the child. You have the family, the carers and the whole environment rather than solely the requirement that the child is kept alive at all costs."

"But I would support parents who did not want to follow the option offered in this judgement just as strongly."

ACADEMIC

Dr Jimmy Altham, a moral philosopher at Cambridge University, thought the judgement seemed fair but warned: "There is a danger of a 'slippery slope'."

"It would be worrying if this gave doctors the right to withhold antibiotics and they were withheld on the grounds of the patient's quality of life, even if the patient could survive."

MEDICAL WRITER

Dr Richard Nicholson, editor of the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*, supported the judgement: "Apart from the fact that resuscitation in such people is extremely hard to attempt, this is a person who has never had any ability at all. I think it is reasonable to take that into account."

"If people were very casually making these decisions about people with much lesser degrees of disability then you could say you were on a slippery slope. But these decisions are not taken lightly or inadvisedly."

MIND wins challenge on votes

Mental health charity MIND has successfully challenged a Government ruling that denies mentally ill people in hospital the right to register to vote.

MIND had questioned the legal basis for the voting ban on patients detained under the Mental Health Act and was about to start a challenge in the courts when the Home Office issued revised rules on electoral registration.

Now, an individual with a home address to which he or she intends to return on being discharged can register to vote while in hospital.

However, MIND is unhappy with part of the new guidance which says that a patient who has been detained for more than six months in hospital may find it difficult to claim that they are registered at a former address.

SYMMETRI Kit

A DIVISION OF
THE HELPING HAND COMPANY

A NEW CONCEPT FOR POSTURAL MANAGEMENT AT HOME

It is recognised by therapists that people who are unable to move well can be at risk of developing an unconventional body shape. The therapeutic management of a symmetrical posture is recommended in the effort to prevent these problems.

In a typical domestic environment there is limited space for equipment for postural management.

Our amazing new SYMMETRIKIT TILT CHAIR combines the functions of our standard chairs with a tilt mechanism which allows the chair to be used for many positions, including:-



PRONE



SIDE LYING



SITTING

Post our coupon today for further information

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

SEND TO: Symmetrikit Ltd, The Sharratts, School Lane, Hopwas, Tamworth, Staffordshire B78 3AD. Tel: 01827-69992

DIN/6/96

Alzheimer detection hopes

Doctors have found an accurate way to detect Alzheimer's disease.

At the moment, one quarter of people are diagnosed wrongly and doctors can only confirm their diagnoses by post-mortem examinations.

The new test combines images of blood flow and brain scans to detect areas of the brain which are damaged by the condition.

In an eight year study, a team from Oxford's Radcliffe Infirmary, led by Dr Kim Jobst and Professor David Smith, examined over 300 people with and without dementia.

Post-mortems on 132 of those with dementia who died showed that the diagnoses of Alzheimer's were accurate in 19 out of 20 cases.

"We have also been able to show the fundamental difference between Alzheimer's disease and the normal ageing process, which pinpoints the area of the brain that needs to be targeted for treatment. It is a step towards developing and trying out effective treatments," said Dr Jobst.

"Individuals can also know that they are dealing with an organic problem and not going mentally ill, which can make a big difference to the way families cope."

Alzheimer's is the UK's fourth leading killer. There are thought to be around 800,000

people with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia in the UK.

Meanwhile, scientists from the University of California, San Diego, have developed gene treatments which prevent brain degeneration similar to Alzheimer's in monkeys.

The team produced the condition in the monkeys then extracted brain cells which they treated with a gene linked to cell growth.

The treated cells were able to fight off damage once they were implanted back into the brains of the monkeys.

Arthritis gene link

Over half of all cases of osteoarthritis are inherited say medical experts.

Researchers at the rheumatology department at St Thomas's Hospital in London examined and x-rayed 250 pairs of twins. They found that identical twins were twice as likely to both have osteoarthritis in the hands and knees as non-identical twins.

The team, headed by Dr Tim Spector and funded by the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, calculated that this means there is a genetic cause in up to 65 per cent of cases of the condition.

"This is the first time that the common form of osteoarthritis has been shown to have a major genetic influence. For 50 years it had been believed to be a wear and tear disease of ageing," said Dr Spector.



Osteoarthritis twins: Joan Robbins (left) and Joyce Shuter

ARTHRITIS AND RHEUMATISM COUNCIL

Osteoarthritis affects one in six men and women over the age of 45 in developed countries and leads to 50,000 joint replacements every year.

The researchers now hope to identify the gene responsible for the condition, and they are asking twins of either sex, between 18-70 to help in their research.

If you wish to take part, contact Sister Juliet Baker, tel: 0171-922 8137/8148/8149

Stroke survey

The popular pain killer aspirin could reduce the after-effects of strokes say researchers.

A world-wide study to be co-ordinated by Dr Peter Sandercock, reader in neurology at Edinburgh University, is assessing the effects of giving the blood thinning drugs aspirin and heparin to people within two days of their stroke.

"Most strokes are due to blocked arteries inside the brain. The drugs might improve the brain's blood supply and

reduce the amount of damage."

But he warned that the purpose of the study was also to find out whether the drugs caused harm.

Doctors already prescribe aspirin to people who have had a stroke to reduce the risk of it repeating.

"We know that aspirin prevents a recurrent stroke but we don't know if we should use it to treat an acute stroke."

The research involves 458 hospitals in 38 countries around the world. Nearly 18,000 stroke patients have agreed to have the treatment so far, and the results should be available in 1997.

Although any benefits would be modest they would be worthwhile, he said.

The study is partly funded by the UK's Stroke Association.

Fat back in fashion

American doctors are using an old high fat diet to control epilepsy.

Dr John Freeman, of the Johns Hopkins University Hospital in

Baltimore, says the "ketogenic" diet can stop seizures.

The diet consists of starving for two days and then eating a high fat diet of foods such as bacon, eggs and cream.

Dr Freeman believes that the starvation allows the body to burn up sugar before switching to fatty reserves which contain ketones.

Ketones help the brain control its levels of a chemical known as gamma aminobutyric acid GABA, which seems to be related to seizures.

The British Epilepsy Association says the diet has been around since the 1920s but is rigorous and unpalatable.

"There has been interest lately. Some people find it effective but anyone considering the diet should seek medical advice," said a spokesperson.

British Epilepsy Association helpline, tel: (0800) 309030

MS drug immune fears

An American researcher says over half the people given a new generation multiple sclerosis (MS) drug develop antibodies to it.

The drug Interferon- β -1b is used to treat relapsing and remitting MS. It had been shown to reduce levels of disability and lessen the frequency of relapses.

But in a study led by Saud Sadiq at Columbia University, New York, 26 of 60 people with the condition produced high levels of antibodies to the drug - some after just three months of being treated.

A spokesperson for the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland said it still supported the drug's use as tests have shown that it has definite benefits.

The Mangar Freestyle

Enables you to
INDEPENDENT

REACH for
OPPORTUNITY

CALL

US ON

01544 267674

for a FREE
Demonstration

A

- Compact
- Powered
- Elevating
- Wheelchair

TO SUIT YOU

- Any seating fitted
- Easy to Use
- For Home
- For College
- For Any workplace
- For shopping or
- For Socialising!



OR
CONTACT US
AT

Mangar International Ltd.,
Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2UF.
Fax: 01544 260287

Walkabouts by Metco

Extra mobility for around £100!

Walkabouts keep you mobile and active. They have wheels, directional control, brakes and baskets.

The Sit-Down Walkabout has a handy seat. They fold flat for transport and delivery is included in the price.

POST OUR COUPON TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

Send to: METCO WALKABOUTS, FREEPOST BEESTON,
NOTTINGHAM NG9 1BR No stamp required

Tel: (0115) 925 5488

DN6/96



Extra mobility for
around £100!

'Are any therapies effective? We need clinical research to distinguish the good from the mumbo jumbo'

Ian Mackintosh argues that knowing which therapies work would save money and improve people's lives

What is sometimes unbearable about being the parent of a disabled child is not knowing what to do, where to go, or which experts to believe.

Like most people, my wife and I knew little about disability, but early suspicion of our baby daughter's cerebral palsy (cp) spurred us to learn quickly. We read widely and consulted many British "experts", but none seemed able to tell us what we might do to improve her chance of living a reasonably normal life.

Luckily, we learned about the long-standing Hungarian expertise in this field and made our first visit to Budapest to consult an internationally-renowned expert, Professor Ferenc Katona of the *Paediatric Institut Szabadsaghegy*.

We were convinced that the earlier treatment is started the better, and that infant brains are more amenable to "reprogramming" than adult ones (this is the heart of Katona's thinking).

Our daughter was a year old, already at the limit at which early-intervention techniques are believed to be most effective. Nevertheless, with the advice of Katona and his colleagues we devised some daily, home-based programmes to put her in situations where physical movements (such as rolling, crawling and grasping) would be facilitated or motivated (eg, by dangling toys).

As time passed and our piles of cp literature grew, we realised our daughter was old enough for conductive education.

This holistic philosophy, devised by another Hungarian, Andreas Peto, embraces a programme of group therapies supervised by a "conductor". It aims to accelerate the child's overall physical development (especially walking), while giving appropriate emphasis to general learning abilities and other mental skills such as communication, social development, responsiveness and a sense of responsibility.

We managed to get our daughter accepted by means of an interview with a senior Hungarian conductor at Scope's London offices.

Back in Budapest at the Peto



"Mums" get down to the washing: four of the nursery class at the Hornsey Centre, London

Centre, we were mightily impressed. The five-storey building was immaculately run, staffed by intelligent and caring people at all levels of responsibility. The kids seemed to be enjoying themselves doing their various games and routines – a far cry from the anger, hurt and frustration suggested by some articles we had read before our visit.

So good was our impression of conductive education (added to our belief in our daughter's

'Most parents clutch at any straw in the hope of improving their child's prospects'

potential), that she now attends a daily nursery school at the Hornsey Centre in north London, which is dedicated to the Peto methods. She will probably go on to a programme which combines conductive education and the national curriculum (to be found only at specialised establishments like Hornsey, not in mainstream schools).

Many parents in similar circumstances will want to know if the therapy worked. Is our daughter any better for it?

The truth is we simply do not know.

We know what she is like now (utterly delightful in the view of this totally subjective dad), and she has certainly made much progress. But we cannot know what she would have been like

had we not done what we did, or done something different.

We are now convinced that only by mounting a well-managed and statistically significant clinical trial will it ever be possible to ascertain if any therapies or educational methods are effective.

I tried to set up a British trial of the usefulness of early-intervention treatments two years ago, when I chaired a committee of five senior paediatricians from University College, London, and the Institute of Child Health. By the end, three of them favoured a full-scale clinical trial.

Nevertheless, we did not put forward a formal proposal for funds.

The most important reason was that to be statistically meaningful the trial would need about 260 infants (half each in the treated and control groups). Yet applying suitably rigorous criteria would reduce the relevant infants to only (only!) about 50 a year in the Greater London area. So either the trial would last about five years or need to be done on a national basis. In view of the management and cost difficulties, the committee (myself disagreeing) decided we could proceed no further.

The current view in most British medical circles, reinforced by some parts of the social services, is that using "alternative" therapies for the treatment of infant/child cp is of dubious value – though

conventional physio-therapy generally escapes disapproval.

This is not academically respectable since, as we have seen, no authoritative trial has ever been conducted in this country of any relevant method. We are all in the dark.

Given this ignorance and the vast expense to parents and the state, there is an urgent need for

a dispassionate and scientific approach to finding out what works and what doesn't. If ever there was a case for a definitive piece of clinical research to distinguish the good from the mumbo jumbo, this is it.

According to Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, and Sir Michael Peckham, until recently his director of research and development, this is an area where "science-based rationalisation" and "evidence-based medicine" could save money and effect significant improvements for disabled people.

Most parents clutch at any straw in the hope of improving their child's prospects of a full, independent and productive life. But that can get in the way of discovering the truth. Proving what can and cannot bring about durable improvements could yield great dividends to us all.

Professor Ian Mackintosh is director of the European Foundation for Technical Innovation, University College, London.


SCANDINAVIAN MOBILITY



Designed for greater comfort

Thoughtful design and outstanding adjustability makes the highly specialised Rea Comfort the ideal choice for the disabled and carer alike.

For details of the full range of Scandinavian Mobility wheelchairs please complete and return the coupon below.

FREEPHONE 0800 252614

ELECTRIC MOBILITY EURO

Dealer network throughout the United Kingdom

Electric Mobility Euro Ltd,
Sea King Road, Lynx Trading Estate,
Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2NZ

Please arrange: ☐ Free Demonstration ☐ Free Colour Brochure DisNow/SM/02/96

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____ TEL: _____



Alison Rowat

You've been taking the brochure to bed since Christmas and the new undies from Marks and Spencer are in the bag. Next the boring but vital bit – buying the holiday insurance. Will you fare worse in terms of price and service if you are disabled?

We put ten companies to the test, five of which were mentioned in the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation's *Holiday Fact Pack* (shown with asterisks). Our reporters, Rachel Wilson and Alison Rowat, rang round anonymously, trying to beat the £28.50 price in the Skytours brochure. Both had similar two week holidays in Europe and used identical scripts, with Alison stopping when the question about disability came up.

Post Office 0800 387858

Alison: Offered £18.20. Was asked if there might be a reason for cancelling. Mentioned forthcoming hospital appointment. Was asked what it was for, how long I had had condition. Bit embarrassing to go into in the middle of the office. Supervisor said they wouldn't be able to cover me for cancellation or curtailment. Friendly, but didn't volunteer information about exclusions.

Rachel: Asked about disability and whether I was on any medication. Same price as Alison. Would be covered for an electric wheelchair but not manual. Policy not available in accessible format. Helpful and apologetic about information format.

Thomas Cook 01733 503222

Alison: Offered 17 days for £32.95. Seemed very rushed. Did explain they couldn't issue policies over the phone.

Give us a break

Take two women – one disabled – two holidays, and ten travel insurance companies. Who got the best deal over the phone?

Rachel: Same price. Stressed there would be no extra charge because of my disability, but I must be fit to travel. No medical required, but in the event of curtailment or cancellation of holiday due to disability, I would have to prove I had been fit to travel. Wheelchair only covered up to £250. Asked about information in accessible format: was told "the language is very plain".

wheelchair would be covered, but not electric. Information not available in accessible format, but offered to enlarge it on the photocopier. Helpful, friendly, made me feel at ease.

*MJ Fish & Co 01772 724442

Alison: Offered standard 17 day cover for Europe at £20.30. Volunteered to send more details. Capable, confident.

that as I had a long standing disability there probably wouldn't be a problem. Medical line questions more to do with general health rather than disability, ie did I have a heart condition? Knew about cerebral palsy. Told me to ring back operator and say I was fit. Sent enlarged copies of information. Offered so much help that I began to feel guilty that I wasn't actually going!



Santa Eulalia, Ibiza: the sun, the sea, the sand and the excess claims

SPANISH NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE

Said sight, not comprehension, was the problem. Offered to send a standard policy and help me over the phone. Refreshing not to have to face a medical. Efficient, but not friendly.

*Travelcare Ltd 0800 181532

Alison: Quoted £22 for 12-18 days with luggage cover. Brisk, capable.

Rachel: Quoted £22. Asked what my condition was. No change to premium, but was told I had to have a form filled out by my GP. Manual

Rachel: Asked how much I had been quoted at travel agents (£28.50). Was told they could only do £30.30. Said disability would not affect premium provided I was not travelling against medical advice. Equipment covered, up to £250 per item. Information only available in standard format. Very abrupt. Didn't seem interested once she couldn't beat price.

*Leisurecare Insurance Services Ltd 01793 514199

Alison: Two weeks, £16.50. Ran through policy at high speed. *Rachel:* Offered special policy for disabled people for £47.26 which covers loss or damage to wheelchair up to value of £2,500, as well as all the usual things. Information not available in alternative format, but offered to enlarge it.

Travel Insurance Direct 0161-962 5570

Alison: Offered 11-17 day cover for £16.90. Volunteered details, stressing the medical cover ("that's the most important, isn't it?"). Offered to send a full policy to look at.

Rachel: Quoted £16.90. When I mentioned disability, passed on to the medical line. Assured me

*Extrasure Holdings Ltd 0171-488 9341

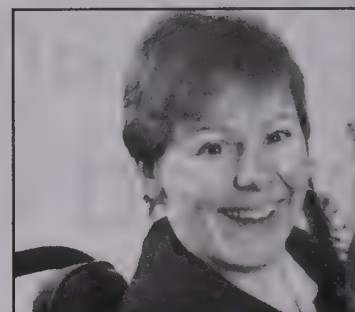
Alison: Offered economy package (no baggage cover) for £18.45, or elite (with baggage cover) for £23.57. Policies apply up to age 69. Volunteered to send details. Had to prompt to find out what policy covered.

Rachel: Same prices. Told my chair was covered, but when pressed for more details said it was all in the brochure (not that I could see). Information only available in standard format. Seemed anxious to get me off the phone. Polite, but uncomfortable with detail.

Bradford and Bingley 0345 001545

Alison: £22 with luggage cover. Was halfway through asking a question when he broke off to talk to a colleague. Too chatty: did not inspire confidence.

Rachel: Got a total idiot. After usual questions, was asked if my prognosis was terminal. Quoted £22. Disability made no difference to premium, but needed GP letter. Wheelchairs covered, but only in transit. No alternative to information in print. Blasé before disclosure of disability, and patronising after.



Rachel Wilson

*Marrs Insurance Brokers Ltd 0181 366 2222

Alison: Quoted one price of £19.47. Had to prompt about what it covered ("oh, all the usual bits and bobs"). Did offer to send full policy details.

Rachel: Quoted £22 with luggage, £18.70 without. No change because of disability but subject to GP letter. Not covered if awaiting medical treatment or have terminal prognosis. Wheelchair not covered; suggested I amend my household policy. Would not send policy prior to payment. Friendly, if a bit nervy.

Co-op Travel, Gravesend

Rachel also phoned her local Co-op Travel: Asked if they thought there would be any difference in price due to disability. No, but should not travel against GP's advice. No medical required. Unsure if policy would cover equipment. Sent details of Co-op policy as well (£32.95 for 14 nights). Tried to be helpful but not really with it. Said I might be better off with a specialist policy.

The verdict

The Disability Discrimination Act's provisions making it unlawful to give disabled people a lower standard of service, or offer less favourable terms, come into effect at the end of 1996. Holiday insurance – the cause of one in ten disputes handled by the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau last year – will be one of its key testing grounds.

It was definitely worth shopping around and we were pleased that most companies did not automatically bump up the premium because of disability. Some curious differences did arise, however. Would the £30 price difference at Leisurecare be worth it?

What disturbed us most was the varying competence of operators. Especially in Rachel's case, it was important to quiz them closely about what the policy covered and vital to disclose anything which might be relevant, eg, your type of wheelchair. Even then, we would still want to comb through the full policy before we felt assured. As ever, the onus is on the disabled buyer to be ahead of the game. Over to you, insurance companies...

Thanks to RICA for advice.



Residential home for eight adults with a range of learning disabilities

Respite care also available

All accommodation and facilities on the ground floor
3 miles from junction 6 of the M20

Family-run home with trained and experienced staff

Proprietor:
Mrs Maria Davis

Brochure available
on request

Telephone: 01622 751894



Ford Motability can help you realise your driving ambition.



With the Ford Motability programme, you could soon be driving a new Ford.

If you or a member of your family either receive the Higher Rate Mobility Allowance, or are registered as disabled, you can choose from a wide range of Ford cars through finance schemes or outright purchase.

Our most popular scheme includes insurance, roadside assistance cover, servicing and the reassuring support of one of the

UK's largest networks of Motability dealers.

You don't have to be disabled yourself to benefit from Ford Motability. Parents, spouses or carers of disabled people can also obtain vehicles through this Programme.

Call free on **0800 111 222**

(quoting M50) for details of how Ford Motability and your nearest Motability dealer can help you realise your driving ambition.



Motability.

Daytime believer

DN's motoring correspondent David Griffiths thinks Lewis Reed's caravanette is a winner

Lewis Reed is based in Merseyside, where things either have to be big (The Liver Bird) or plentiful (Beatles records) to attract attention. Now there's another dimension – value for money. And in Liverpoolian terms this isn't so much about what you pay for something as what it's worth when you've finished with it.

Motor homes, day vans, caravanettes, call them what you will, all have a resale value which depends on pedigree. Do-it-yourself on a Ford Transit and you will save at the outset, but when the time comes to change, the market will not be yours.

If you opt for fittings by



Everything under one roof: the Daytime Cruiser makes a mockery of all those hotel bills

friendly. Undercutting its rivals by the best part of £2,000, it makes a worthwhile addition to the standard ramps provided.

Sleeping provision for two is simply made up from the back seat which is sideways on (space under for linen storage). The wheelchair user travels behind the front passenger seat.

The arrangement works well provided the wheelchair user has some ability to stand, as a standing transfer is needed. Neither cooker nor fridge can be reached from a wheelchair. However the toilet, positioned behind the driver, has good support and presents no problems.

A hotel from home

Standard equipment includes cooker, sink, double bed, swivel seat, electrics, windows, curtains, removable table, ramps and clamps. At £14,650 for the petrol version, it makes a mockery of all those hotel bills.

Options include blown air, Propex heating, electric under floor lift and an automatic clutch conversion. The Daytime Cruiser could certainly rejuvenate life where one partner remains fit and a bit of rearranging may just tip the balance in favour of those who need a greater level of help.

When the time comes for a break, the Cruiser turns to snoozer with little effort, and when new horizons beckon, it should present no resale problems. Divested of ramps and lift it will appear no different from its fellow exhibits.

Lewis Reed Group, tel: 0151-608 9933

G&M COACHWORK DEVON



VEHICLES FOR THE DISABLED

CAR AND LIGHT VAN CONVERSIONS FOR THE FAMILY. WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY PLUS 3-6 SEATS. A SELECTION OF NEW OR GOOD USED VEHICLES BUILT TO SUIT YOUR INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS. FOR ADVICE ON CONVERSIONS, MOTABILITY & VAT EXEMPTION CONTACT: DAVID VOOHT, TEL: 01803 812260

LeisureDrive, the Daytime Cruiser can be re-sold as a mainstream vehicle attracting mainstream prices.

Based on the diesel Renault Traffic, it offers comfortable, affordable motoring (35mpg) for a modest outlay. Driver comforts are not top of the range, but there is power assisted steering, a good driving position and swivelling seats.

Storage space

Full standing headroom is achieved by fitting a fibreglass hightop and there are over-cap storage lockers for that ever-increasing mountain of guide-

books and mementoes.

Out on the road I travelled comfortably secure in my powerchair. When pushed the diesel engine did intrude, but at moderate speeds it was possible to hold a conversation without raising voices.

On really harsh surfaces it felt a bit firm, but never caused me discomfort. Some body roll on adverse cambers was apparent, but the clamps held firm and the seat belt was reassuring.

Access on the demonstrator was via the side door on an automatic underfloor lift by UVL, which works smoothly, is neat, rattle-free and user



The New Volkswagen Caravelle by Invatravel Conversions



Various options of wheelchair access available on this super new model, including:

- underfloor electro-hydraulic lifts
- hydraulic lowering rear suspension with spring assisted alloy ramp
- manual ramps, etc

Disabled driver options for full independence.

Prices start from £15,150.00 on the road excluding all taxes from which disabled users are exempt.

Contact Paul Cassidy or David Reid, tel: 01704 506608,
Fax: 01704 506607. 66 Knob Hall Lane, Southport PR9 9QS.



APPROVED CONVERTER OF
THE VOLKSWAGEN
CARAVELLE RANGE



For automobile addicts the first ever West Midlands Mobility Roadshow is at the Motor Industry Research Association, Watling Street, Nuneaton from 14-16 June. Admission is free.

There will be loads of adapted cars to see and to test drive on four off road test tracks.

As well as 11 car manufacturers including Ford, Talbot and Vauxhall, there will be more than 100 exhibitors including specialist adaptation companies like Jim Doran Hand Controls, and national organisations like the Disabled Drivers' Association. Of course, DN will be there too. Find us on stand 212A.

Tel: (01226) 386677

Orange badge abuse now 'epidemic'

The first ever survey of orange badge use, commissioned by *DN* and carried out by Dave Allcock, produced some shocking findings

Misuse of the Orange Badge parking concession which benefits 1.7 million disabled people, rising one in 12 vehicles, has reached epidemic proportions, a first ever survey has found.

426 access groups, representing some 15,000 disabled people, were questioned in April. 102 (71 per cent) responded.

Over 90 per cent said the scheme was being abused, and 75 per cent said levels of abuse had increased since 1992 (when the scheme was tightened up).

"Some families treat their disabled members rather like a log, to be left in the car for security," said a Lincoln member. "There is far too much abuse by people awarded orange badges for disabled partners. They use it, and disabled parking spaces, when the disabled person is not in the car," said City of London Access Group.

"The abuse of parking bays is a big problem," said the Reigate & Banstead Access Forum. "The police, traffic wardens and the local authority turn a blind eye."

How the scheme works

A Department of Transport leaflet says: "The Orange Badge Scheme provides a national arrangement of parking concessions for people with severe walking difficulties who travel either as drivers or passengers, registered blind people, and people with very severe upper limb disabilities who regularly drive a vehicle but cannot turn a steering wheel by hand."

Badge holders are allowed to park close to shops and buildings or in designated parking bays on the public highway.

The concession is "a right designed to counter the disabling effect of the environment, in particular extensive pedestrianisation and inaccessible transport," as Wakefield's Access Consultative Group put it.

Orange badges are issued by local authority social services using guidelines in Circular 3/91. Local authorities are also responsible for ensuring that new developments like shopping complexes make adequate provision for disabled people.

Launched in 1971, the scheme was tightened up in 1992. New offences were introduced, eg the badge should not be displayed while driving, and hold-

ers were encouraged to keep the badge in their possession when it was not being used.

Misuse of an orange badge is punishable by withdrawal of the badge or a £1,000 fine.

What the survey asked

DN wanted to find out if the criteria for issuing badges was fair and thought to work, if the scheme worked in designated bays in private car parks (eg supermarkets), and if action was taken against able-bodied drivers parking in the bays and families who misuse their badge.

Other key findings

* 65 per cent of groups thought the issuing guidelines were being ignored.

50 per cent wanted the criteria made tougher. 6 per cent

notice saying there was a £400 fine for improper use. He took a photo, told the car park attendant, and wrote asking the council what action it would take. He was told the policy was not to pursue legal action against first time offenders, but to issue a notice of offence. "The borough council's policy is not enough to deter people from abusing the system," he said.

Yet Frances Martineau of Newham Access Group said: "Most of our local authority buildings have designated parking bays. At the headquarters for social services, these are enforced by a wheel clamping scheme if cars park illegally."

* 72 per cent of groups strongly criticised police and traffic wardens for not taking action against misusers.

Comments

Mrs Sheila Gardener of Ilkley District Access for the Disabled Group said: "I constantly notice cars without an Orange Badge parked in on-street disabled bays. After eight years, we still wait for just one ticket or fine."

Geoff West, East Lancs Disabled Drivers Association, said: "When you ask local traffic wardens to check Orange Badge abuse, they all say: 'We can't upset the disabled'."

* 76 per cent of groups thought private car parks were unsupervised and action was not taken against abusers.

52 per cent thought they did not provide adequate facilities (enough bays or wide-enough bays) for disabled people.

Comments

Henry Dopson of Greenwich Association of Disabled People, thought owners of free private car parks, eg Sainsbury, B&Q, and Texas, should impose a fine on motorists abusing designated parking bays. "Too often the marking out of Orange Badge bays is only a means of the stores obtaining planning permission from the local council. But when the stores are opened, a blind eye is turned to the illegal use by customers."

Yet John Dickerson of Grimsby reported that "A local Asda has a sign in disabled driver bays stating a charge of £20 if used by able-bodied drivers. This is enforced and money donated to local charities working for dis-



Offending Mercedes in Macclesfield...

JOHN OLIVER



YOU HAVE MY PARKING BAY, WOULD YOU LIKE MY DISABILITY TOO?

... and the sticker used by Roachford Access Committee

abled people."

Tesco says that trolley-collecting staff keep an eye on the car park and will ask an offending driver to move, or leave a leaflet (see left) on their windscreen.

Sainsbury was making loud-speaker announcements about designated parking spaces for disabled people over Easter.

What's to be done?

Some local groups take matters into their own hands and leave a sticker (see above) on the wind-

screen of an offending car.

But the best way to curb orange badge abuse must be to actively enforce the rules and deter abusers with a heavy fine or the loss of their badge.

Dave Allcock is development officer for the Access Committee for England (ACE). His booklet on the Orange Badge, from which the survey arose, is available for £2.45 (incl p&p) from ACE, 12 City Forum, 250 City Road, London EC1V 8F.

**WE RESPECTFULLY
POINT OUT THAT YOU ARE
PARKED IN A SPACE**

RESERVE

**FOR ORANGE BADGE HOLDERS.
PLEASE HELP US TO HELP OUR
DISABLED CUSTOMERS.
THANK YOU.**

Tesco's polite, succinct leaflet

wanted it eased, while 44 per cent thought it was fair when properly operated.

Comments

Roachford Access Committee said badges in their area "are issued far too easily and to people who appear to be perfectly able-bodied. To be honest, we have wondered at times if false teeth and contact lenses are accepted as a disability."

But Mrs Diana Bell of Accessibility Boston thinks: "Disabled people are individuals with differing abilities. The local authorities should have some power to use their own discretion, but not abuse the scheme."

* 75 per cent of the groups think local authorities do not take action against badge abusers.

Comments

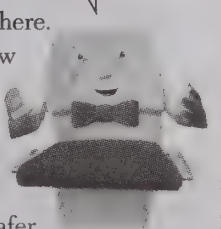
John Oliver from Macclesfield described how he found a car parked across a designated bay, occupying two spaces, beside a

MAKE CLIMBING STAIRS EASY WITH ONE PHONE CALL.



Hello, Stan here.

Find out how a Stannah Stairlift could make your life easier and safer.



**FOR A FREE SURVEY
CALL US TODAY ON
0800 715124**

or complete and return the coupon for your free Information Pack.

Please complete and return to: Stannah Stairlifts Limited, Dept 8696, FREEPOST, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR.

Are you enquiring for your Household ☐ A relative living elsewhere ☐

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel



When your thoughts turn to stairs turn to Stannah.

Letters to the Editor



Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ
 Minicom: 0171-436 9914 Fax: 0171-436 4582
 e-mail: dnow@d-access.demon.co.uk

Students v Esther

I was deeply dismayed to read Andrew Farquhar's letter (*DN May*) attempting to justify the presentation of the Snowdon Special Award to Esther Rantzen in recognition of "services to disabled people". He had the nerve to imply that disabled students would agree with him rather than with those who dispute the wisdom of giving the award to Ms Rantzen.

Although I have no intention of denouncing any organisation which provides financial assistance to disabled students, I believe the choice of recipient for the award was fundamentally misguided.

I do not dispute that Ms Rantzen has good intentions, or that she has raised much money, but her work has consistently portrayed disabled people in a negative and patronising light.

Most of all, I resent Mr Farquhar's statement that Esther has merely "tried to improve the quality of life of

those who are suffering". I certainly know of no disabled students who I would regard as "suffering" and I think Mr Farquhar would be hard pushed to find one that agreed with his sentiments on this issue.

I also think that to suggest that he understands the views of disabled students better than Tom Shakespeare, a disabled person and respected academic, is a bit rich.

Ultimately, if any organisation or individual can speak for disabled students it is the National Union of Students (NUS), the only body with the democratic structure to give students with disabilities a voice. And I can assure you that the NUS students with disabilities campaign would never agree with Mr Farquhar on this issue.

Helen Garrod

NUS National Executive Committee member with responsibility for students with disabilities, London

Direct payments could fail

While I support direct payments, I am concerned that many would-be users and local authorities are not aware of the issues involved.

From the age of 20 I became a self-employed personnel and financial manager – as part of controlling my own care. With no training, I battled through this minefield.

My greatest problem is that I do not need 24 hour care. If I did, I could employ people who understood the job and had a strong level of commitment.

I need about two hours domestic and admin assistance a day. The wages are low and the hours too few to warrant much commitment. I need to pay cash in hand to ensure people will work for me. I must rely on housewives who are not on my wavelength or students who do not understand the importance of reliability.

In the last three months I have advertised and interviewed three times without success.

If action to promote awareness and clarity is not taken, direct payments are likely to be doomed to failure due to the mess and complaints made by users.

Simon Stevens
 Coventry

Student diary

It's taken 100 years to mention disability

by Marigold Hope

I'm back at Edinburgh for our regrettably short summer term.

If last term is anything to go by, we are in the honeymoon stage when everyone is nice to everyone else and exams feel comfortably distant.

It's flat hunting time. My fourth and hopefully final flat arrangement is to live with four friends all doing nursing degrees. I can't wait. A surprising number of people are buying flats, but then Edinburgh is abundant with wealthy students. We are already frustrated at price, area and availability not matching up. You suddenly appreciate halls when you know you are not here for long.

This term I have got much more time. Apart from seeing friends, joining the choir and the student paper, I have been involved in protests and debate about the psychology lecturer Chris Brand, self-styled "scientific racist". The controversy has wider implications, such as research versus lecturing and the need for anonymous marking, which the tediously bureaucratic and unpopular student representative council (SRC) are now calling for.

I am freer to do more this term only because I know what treatment and assistance I can get and when, so that disability has less of a hold on my life. I'm more contented – though,



I have a long way to go until I accept the limitations my legs impose. I'm constantly in agony from trying to be "normal".

Disability still isn't a fashionable issue. So necessary changes are not being made at the university.

Many students, especially those on the SRC, believe they are right on and politically correct. This is farcical when it comes to disability. A motion by two SRC members wanting to make meetings accessible and enhance awareness of disability was met with a mass of feeble opposition. The motion had to be heavily amended.

A student paper reporter asked me to comment on a new "lab" being setting up in the library for people with dyslexia and visual impairments. It has only come about as an extra to a lab full of new graphics equipment for all students.

It is a great step in the right direction. Has Edinburgh finally realised how behind we are in disability facilities compared to new universities?

The reporter heard of the lab by chance and thought it had happened as a result of the Disability Discrimination Act. His article never appeared.

There has never been an article about disability in the paper (founded 1887). I am writing two pages for them in a few weeks. An editor told me that the paper only got interested in the idea when they couldn't come up with anything else to fill the space.

MOBILITY SOLUTIONS

FOR DISABLED DRIVERS & PASSENGERS

WE OFFER A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE, FROM HAND CONTROLS TO WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE AND WHEELCHAIR DRIVER VEHICLES, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN. IF YOU HAVE A MOBILITY PROBLEM CALL US FOR THE SOLUTION.



EXTRA



COURIER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND LITERATURE ON OUR RANGE OF PRODUCTS & SERVICES CONTACT:

**POYNTING
 CONVERSIONS**

FARADAY ROAD
 CHURCHFIELDS IND. EST.
 SALISBURY
 WILTSHIRE
 SP2 7NR

01722 336048

DN's diary

What it is to have power

Raglan Day Centre in Kentish Town, London, the first centre for people with dementia and their carers, celebrated its 21st birthday in April. Harmonica player Larry Adler came, plus the Mayor of Camden and other dignitaries. "It would not be right to arrive without a present," said Cllr Harriet Garland, pledging a dedicated parking space at the front of the centre in a few weeks' time.

Whoops

MP Harry Barnes rang a free-phone number three times in March and April to get the Social Security Department's consultation pack on the Dis-

ability Discrimination Act. His early day motion says he was "fobbed off with promises that never materialised ...believes that if this is a common experience it makes a mockery of the consultation exercise" and calls for an extra month of consultation. Of all the customers at all the home addresses around the world, they chose to annoy the man whose Civil Rights Bill cost the career of one Tory minister and forced new legislation on the statute books.

Restricted zone

Disabled reader Ann Hewlett from Stowmarket, Suffolk, says it is easier to reach a shop on a red route in London than in the local main street – where cars may not drop off passengers. When she complained, she was told to use another bank.



Looking for Transport?

Renault, Ford,
Nissan or Volkswagen

Look no further than a
Brotherwood Conversion
for purchase, Lease or Hire.

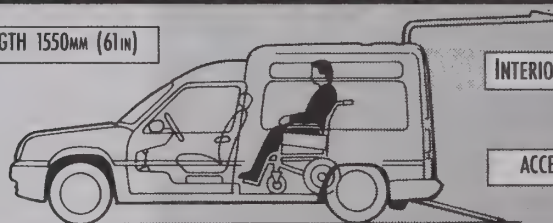
New
Conversion of the
**Volkswagen
Sharan**

From **£22,898**
on the road price



Renault 'Eco' 1.9 Ltr Diesel £11,912 On the road price

PASSENGER AREA LENGTH 1550mm (61in)

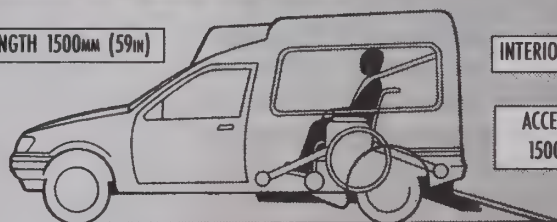


INTERIOR HEADROOM 1420mm (56in)

ACCESS HEIGHT 1420mm (56in)

Ford 'Combi' 1.8 Ltr Diesel £14,175 On the road price

PASSENGER AREA LENGTH 1500mm (59in)

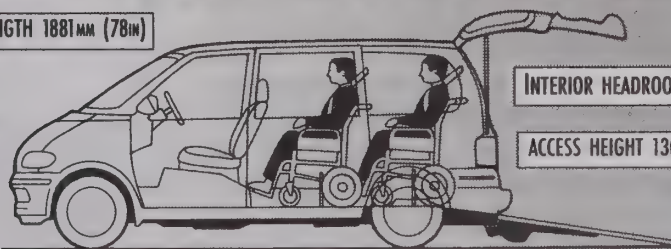


INTERIOR HEADROOM 1550mm (61in)

ACCESS HEIGHT
1500mm (59in)

Nissan Serena 1.6 Petrol/2.3 Diesel 5 door from £19,752

PASSENGER AREA LENGTH 1881mm (78in)

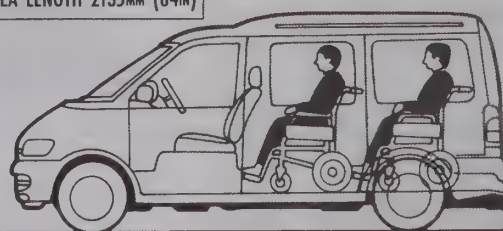


INTERIOR HEADROOM 1370mm (54in)

ACCESS HEIGHT 1300mm (51in)

Nissan 'Cargo 60' 2.3 Ltr Diesel £17,769 On the road

PASSENGER AREA LENGTH 2135mm (84in)



INTERIOR HEADROOM 1525mm (60in)

ACCESS HEIGHT 1450mm (57in)

We sell Secondhand refurbished Nissan Prairies MkI and MkII, with full parts and labour warrantee. Please phone for full details and an information pack, or visit our factory showroom.



BROTHERWOOD
AUTOMOBILITY LIMITED

Pillar Box Lane, Beer Hackett, Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 6QP • Telephone: 01935 872603 • Fax: 01935 872853



Surf's up and beach babe Olivia is ready for the waves in a "SunBuster" outfit (lycra, swimsuit £15.99, hat £9.99 from the Health Education Authority's Sun Know How catalogue). This neck-to-knee swimsuit is designed to cover more of a child's sensitive skin and the lycra blocks out 98 per cent of UV rays. The comfy hat keeps heads and ears cool and purple shades complete the look (£4.99, Boots).

Here comes summer

With skin cancer on the increase, Hannah Crabtree and Alison Miller

Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun – but according to experts that has to change. Englishmen (and women) should be covering up and keeping in the shade.

Skin cancer is the UK's second most common cancer with 30,000 new cases diagnosed every year. There are two main types – non-melanoma and melanoma.

The more common, non-melanoma, skin cancers are related to lifetime exposure to sunlight and are rarely life-threatening.

Melanoma, on the other hand, is more dangerous. It is commoner in younger people and is associated with intense exposure of untanned skin.

It is widely accepted that ultraviolet (UV) radiation causes skin cancer.

UV is divided into three bands by wavelength (the length of the sun's rays). UVC is the most damaging, but it is normally filtered out by the ozone layer. UVB causes sunburn. It is most intense at midday, in midsummer, hot climates and at high altitudes. UVA is associated with tanning not burning and was until recently thought to be relatively harmless, but is now believed to contribute to skin cancer. These rays are strong from dawn to dusk all year.



Three's company: William wears t-shirt (cotton, £6.99), hat (cotton, £8.99), shirt (cotton, £13.50-14.50, Cotton-On), shorts (cotton, £12.00-13.50, Cotton-On), skirt (cotton, £16.00-18.00, Cotton-On), waistcoat (cotton, £12.00-13.50, Cotton-On).

Be hip and stay cool

It's important to be aware of the dangers of excess sunshine, but

summer's also a time for fun. So DN checked out the comfiest, coolest and most colourful

The Unit for Disabled Passengers

Within London Transport, the Unit for Disabled Passengers focuses on the travel needs of elderly and disabled passengers and those who are travelling with children or heavy luggage.

It is associated with several bus services tailored to the needs of those passengers, all of which are accessible by wheelchair users.

Mobility Buses

A London-wide range of services linking residential areas to shopping centres within and beyond the immediate locality.

Stationlink

A circular bus route connecting the major mainline rail termini with Central London.

Low-floor buses

Buses which 'kneel' at bus stops and provide easy access to disabled and encumbered passengers.

To explain these and other services including the Underground and Docklands Light Railway, a range of guides, maps and tapes is available from the Unit at the address given below. These publications include large print Central London bus and Underground maps together with a guide to the accessibility of all Underground stations.

The Unit for Disabled Passengers
London Transport, 172 Buckingham Palace Road,
London SW1W 9TN

Telephone/Minicom: 0171 918 3312. Fax: 0171 918 3876
Please quote reference MB



London Transport
Buses

A BREAKTHROUGH IN FOLDAWAY POWERCHAIRS THE NEW INDEPENDENT



Great news for people who want a truly versatile power wheelchair with all the flexibility of a fold-away. After years of painstaking development, the ultimate foldaway power wheelchair has arrived. Unlike other manufacturers, R J Mobility has patiently listened to what their customers really want - the result is what you see.

KERB CLIMBER FOR EXTRA MOBILITY



The built-in kerb climber is a standard feature on the Independent. It is very simple to operate and provides peace of mind for people who like to be fully mobile without restrictions.

SO MUCH EASIER TO TRANSPORT



Our unique design enables the chair to be quickly dismantled into light, manageable sections. When in sections, can be easily transported by car, train or planemaking it truly portable.

Look at these excellent features:

- * Detachable drive system for ease of carrying
- * Folding frame
- * Individual battery boxes for ease of lifting
- * Removable back-rest
- * Fully adjustable arm-rests for height and width
- * Detachable swinging height adjustable foot rest
- * Detachable kerb climber
- * Fully programmable controls
- * Front charging facility
- * Battery gauge
- * Sealed for life batteries
- * Manual parking brakes for added safety
- * Automatic braking system
- * Super-comfort upholstery
- * Personal effects holder

Call now for further details or simply return the coupon below to:

R J Mobility Ltd,
Unit 1A Oldmixon Crescent,
Weston-Super-Mare, BS24 9AY
Tel: 01934 628 151
Fax: 01934 642 337

Please provide information on the 'Independent'

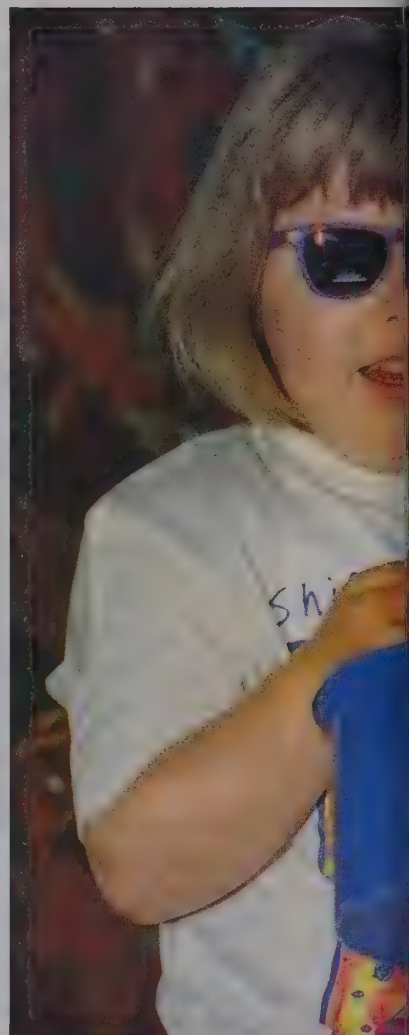
Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms).....

Tel.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

DN6/96



Looking good's no sweat for Stacy in Know How catalogue). Purple sungl

— but watch the sun

out how you can enjoy the rays, look good and stay safe



h from Sun Know How catalogue) and shorts (see right). Olivia wears t-On) and sunglasses (see right). Handbag (£2.99, C&A). Stacy wears t-15.00-22.50, Cotton-On) and hat (£3.99, C&A).

JAMIE FACER

for kids this year with the help of Olivia
ther, Stacy Struthers and William Reilly
atcham House School near Brighton.



colourful t-shirt (cotton, £6.99, Sun
as before.

Sunshine safety

How can you protect yourself from the sun?

When sunbathing, Lawrence Knight, spokesperson for the Department of Health, recommends you should, "use lotions and creams and be sensible about exposure."

Read the labels on sun lotions. SPF (Sun Protection Factor) shows how much longer skin covered with sunscreen takes to burn compared with unprotected skin. If unprotected skin normally burns after one hour, SPF 10 means it will now take ten hours to burn. Choose a sunscreen that filters out UVA and UVB.

Apply sunscreen half an hour before going outside to give your skin time to absorb it. Protect delicate areas. The tops of your feet, shins, backs of knees, nipples, breasts, shoulders, lips, nose, rims of your ears and the top of your head (if your hair is thinning) all need extra protection.

Eyes need protection from the sun too. When buying sunglasses look for BS 2724. This is the British Standard that checks quality and the amount of UV allowed through. Sunglasses sold under BS 2724 have shade numbers – the higher number the better the protection.

A new video from the Body Shop and Marie Curie Cancer Care explains the effects of the sun on children. To loan, tel: (0800) 716146.

Ambre Solaire has a Sun Smart fact pack for teachers, free from tel: 0171-373 7716.

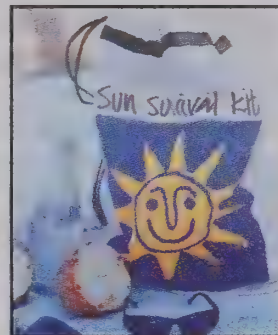
William, six, has eczema and liked the feel of the pure cotton clothes. He particularly liked the navy hat worn back to front.

Stacy, six, and Olivia, five, have cerebral palsy. They both liked the yellow patterned skirt from Cotton-On, which Stacy said "hung nicely". Olivia's favourite was the purple sunglasses.

Cotton-On, tel: (01225) 461155
Sun Know How catalogue, tel: 0181-462 1438



Jungle fever: William wears green t-shirt (polyester/cotton, £2.99, C&A) with comfy grey shorts (cotton/polyester, £3.99, C&A) and sunglasses (£12.99, Sun Know How catalogue)



Bags of fun to be won

We've got five sun survival kit bags to be won. They're perfect for carrying everything you need to keep cool and safe on the beach. Just send your name and address to Bag Offer, Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. The winning entries will be pulled out of a hat.

In your DN next month

Out and about: in the first of our series of great days out for all the family we check out Legoland in Windsor (below) and more.

Happy feet: with all those trips, you'll need some comfy footwear. We pick out some of the best summer shoes.

Summer giveaways: we've got loads of great offers including Kodak Fun Cameras and relaxation tapes.

Chelsea Flower Show: access was a blooming disgrace last year. DN finds out if this year's show has improved and what's new for disabled people.

Consumer rights: research charity RICA tell you all you need to know.

Birmingham Naidex: the newest innovations and the best in children's equipment, microtech, mobility equipment and aids around the home.

Plus all the best news, views, arts, sport and jobs. On sale 26 June.



A HOLIDAYS for DISABLED PEOPLE

Flights from London, Manchester, Birmingham & Glasgow to Amsterdam, Dublin, Paris, Florida, Majorca, Costa Almeria, Tenerife & Algarve, Gites and canal cruises in France. Winter '96 holidays in Norway Accessible Accommodation Guaranteed.

Please send Brochure to

DN6/96

Access Travel (Lancs) Ltd. 16 Haweswater Ave, Astley, Lancs M29 7BL. Tel: 01942 888844.





Light bites for summer

Ann Macfarlane is a "starter and dessert" eater – never mind the main course! She gave *DN* some of her favourite quick and easy recipes for the warm months ahead.

Blue Cheese and Mandarin Salad

One small can mandarin oranges in natural juice, 60g blue cheese, 2tbsp mayonnaise, small white cabbage shredded, cos or iceberg lettuce

Spring sunshine heralds the warmer days of summer. Markets and our own gardens bring us the joys of fresh root and salad vegetables and fruits that make food special at this time of year.

Some years ago I wrote a cook book, *Are You Cooking Comfortably?* for people who may find food preparation and the cooking of food difficult.

Here are some light dishes from my book together with some easy summer food ideas and tips.

It is worth remembering that while we all like to sample and eat exotic or unusual foods, the simple dishes where the taste buds can discern individual flavours are often the most appreciated.

Pizza Wedges

2 ciabatta or muffins, 4tsp tomato puree, 2 tomatoes sliced, 50g cooked ham chopped, 75g grated cheddar cheese or thinly sliced mozzarella, 8 anchovies cut in strips and 4 stoned, halved olives

Cut the ciabatta or muffins in half, toast the underside, then turn over and spread each with a teaspoon of tomato purée. Place the tomatoes and ham on top. Sprinkle with cheese and arrange strips of anchovy to make a lattice. Place pieces of olive in each alternative square of the lattice. Toast under the grill until the cheese has melted.

Drain the mandarins and reserve the juice. Crumble the cheese into a little of the juice and blend in the mayonnaise. Season and mix with the cabbage and mandarins. Serve on a bed of lettuce, with bread or as an accompaniment to fish or pork. Serves two

Watercress Salad

100g watercress
Dressing: *small onion, 15ml vinegar, 3-4tbsp salad oil, salt and pepper, 1tsp caster sugar, 30ml mixed herbs chopped, 2 hard boiled eggs, shelled*

Trim and drain watercress. Peel and chop onion. Mix with the oil and vinegar, season with salt, pepper and sugar. Stir in herbs. Pour over the watercress, toss lightly. Chop the egg and sprinkle over salad. Serve at once. Ideal to serve with fresh pasta or cold meats. Serves three-four

Red Bean Salad

1 can cannellini beans, or haricot beans, 1 can red kidney beans, 2 spring onions chopped, 75g walnuts chopped, 75g dried fruit mixture soaked for one hour, drained and roughly chopped.
Dressing: *5tsp lemon juice, 2tbsp oil, 50g natural yogurt, seasoning, lettuce leaves*

Drain both cans of beans. Mix with onions, walnuts and dried



Eating out: savouries and sweets for perfect summer lunches

© COUNTRY LIVING/JAN BALDWIN

fruit mixture. Place dressing ingredients in a screw top jar and shake. Pour over bean salad and mix in. Line a bowl with lettuce leaves and spoon salad into centre. Serves eight-ten

Berry Dish

Pick over, wash and drain 175g each of redcurrants, blackberries, strawberries, blueberries or bilberries. Carefully mix the fruit with 75g icing sugar. Stir in 2tbsp lemon juice and 2tbsp Grand Marnier. Serve in individual dessert

bowls with fresh thick cream or vanilla ice cream. Alternatively, serve on a large lettuce leaf on flat dishes. Serves four

Strawberry Dessert

500g strawberries, 3tbsp castor sugar, 4tbsp wholemeal oat flakes, 300ml plain yogurt

Hull the strawberries and cut in half. Sprinkle with sugar and put in individual dishes. Put equal amounts of oat flakes over strawberries and top with beaten, chilled yogurt. Garnish

with oat flakes.
Serves six

Dreamy Pink Fluff

1/2pt cold milk, 2 scoops strawberry ice cream, 2tbsp whipped cream, chocolate flake

Liquidise the milk and ice cream until nice and fluffy. Divide between two glasses and decorate with whipped cream and chocolate flake. Serves two

Ann's top tips

(Useful for people with limited mobility or dexterity)

- Use an electric can opener.
- To save lifting an electric kettle, use a plastic jug.
- Cook several jacket potatoes together, wrap surplus separately and freeze until ready for use.
- Cook rice and vegetables in a fine mesh strainer over a saucepan of boiling water.
- Empty the saucepan when water has cooled.
- One good knife is often more effective than several expensive gadgets for food preparation.
- Keep a magnetic notebook on the fridge and jot down any task you might need done by an assistant or friend.
- Keep your own notebook with tested recipes and your own variations and tips for making cooking and entertaining pleasurable.
- Buy ready or semi-prepared foods for occasions when time or energy saving is crucial, eg ready prepared mixed vegetables, ready to roll icing, cake mixes, sauces, etc.

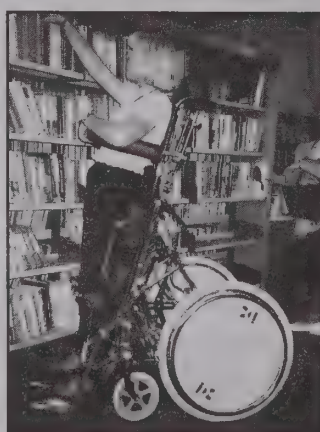
STAIR CLIMBING AND STANDING UP SOLUTIONS



Many architectural barriers can be dealt with by climbing stairs, or by standing up and reaching new heights. With a large choice of models the correct solution can be found from total user independence to attendant assisted. Our range of ramps for home, car, travel, complete the solution options.

FREE DEMONSTRATIONS, ASSESSMENTS.

CONTACT
JOHN CHAMBERLAIN
WHEELCHAIR
CORPORATION LTD
Inc Moor House, Chelmarsh, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 6AZ
Tel: 01746 861940 Mobile: 0374 274919 Fax: 01746 862085



- Stand up at home, work
- Socially, sports, leisure
- Improves general health
- Folding manual model
- All powered options
- Simple one hand control
- Use at a rehabilitation centre

- UK's largest range of stairclimbers
- Prices from £2,850-£12,500
- User operated
- Carer controlled
- No building alterations
- Used at work, school and home
- Free demonstrations

Disability Today

Disability Today is the television programme for disabled people, their families and carers, in fact anyone who has an interest in disability issues. The programme provides information about leisure, work, education, benefits and current issues in an accessible and entertaining format. Two special editions featuring selected highlights from the first series will be screened on BBC2 at 4.00am on Thursdays during May and June, so get your video machines ready! Check *Radio Times* & *Ceefax* for details.

2

THE Learning zone

benefits ba agency

SCOPE

Thirst for life

Rod Hermeston meets wine trader turned aid worker Mike Mackenzie

Wheeling himself into the plush surroundings of Edinburgh's Caledonian Hotel tea room, Mike Mackenzie is perfectly at home.

As a wine trader he dealt with hotels and restaurants for 21 years but quit when the recession hit in 1993 and joined the small charity Scottish European Aid (SEA) as an aid worker in Bosnia and Croatia.

Six weeks into his stint, he was out with two friends when they were hit by a car. His friends were killed but Mike survived – just. Paralysed from the chest down, he had head injuries and a collapsed lung. His left leg had to be amputated and his spleen removed.

'My disability has given me huge opportunities that I didn't have before.'

In a coma, he was flown to St Mary's Hospital in London. "To my friends' total astonishment they found that I had a brain and it was no more damaged than it had been for years," he wise-cracks.

He spent 13 months in hospital, 11 of them in Stoke Mandeville where he was encouraged to concentrate on what he could do, rather than his horrific injuries.

Facing the outside world afterwards he found how difficult it was to cope in an able-bodied environment using a wheelchair. Undaunted, he returned to Bosnia two weeks later, only to find that not being able to "jump out of a Land Rover and hide behind a rock" could make things dangerous for himself and others.

"Wearing a bullet-proof jacket in a wheelchair is not conducive to safety because they weigh so much you tip over backwards," he says. "Unless you are wearing a helmet you bash your head," he adds, unable to resist a joke.

By this time the organisation had changed too and he returned to Scotland where he believed he could be more effective.

Now 47, divorced, and with three grown-up sons, he is dedicated to helping other disabled people – and having fun.

Working as a part-time volunteer he is helping SEA to raise money to produce wheelchairs for disabled people in Romania, which he visited

on a fact-finding mission.

"We have first-hand knowledge of children who are left rotting in bed because there are no facilities for rehabilitation," he says.

With the help of the international wheelchair charity, Motivation, SEA has set up a wheelchair workshop and now needs money to make chairs at \$140 each. They will be made, using local materials, by local disabled people.

Mike, who lives in Perth, also advises newly-disabled people at the Queen Elizabeth National Spinal Injuries Unit (Scotland), based at Glasgow's Southern General Hospital.

"Many of them are from disadvantaged backgrounds and about 78 per cent of injuries are drink or drugs-related," he explains.

Conscious that his clipped accent is unfamiliar in Glasgow he is producing an information pack. It gives details of Motability cars, social services, benefits and leisure services, highlighting the provisions which people might not have been aware of before.

"My disability has given me huge opportunities that I didn't have before," he says. "I would like to spread some enthusiasm and explain these golden opportunities to newly-disabled people and their families. There is no doubt that

as a newly-disabled person you go through hell but by getting on with things you reduce the depression and become normal."

He is busy elsewhere, too. He is about to start working as a consultant with the Adapt Trust (Access for Disabled People to Arts Premises Today) and last year took part in a sponsored wheelchair relay in Spain and raised over £3,000 for the Spinal Research Trust.

He has also learned to ski, while scuba diving, gliding and water ski-ing are on the agenda.

Mike is still concerned with issues which affect him but doesn't believe in a radical approach to campaigning.

"I go demented when you see signs saying wheelchair toilet with an arrow pointing upstairs, but the way is to discuss it at disability forums on a local level and speak to councillors to put your views across.

"I don't see that chaining yourself to a bus outside Parliament Square is necessarily the right way of going about it.

"I'm not a crusader or a bloody hero but I get a lot of satisfaction out of proving that I can do something and if I can do it then why can't others?"

*Scottish European Aid,
tel: 0131-2254465*



Joking apart: former wine trader Mike Mackenzie never takes himself too seriously

MARTIN SHIELDS/CALEDONIAN NEWSPAPERS LTD

COACHING HOLIDAYS

WITH FULLY ADAPTED COACHES

DELIGHTFUL DENMARK

1st-5th July 1996

Relax in comfort as you tour through this beautiful country, visiting Copenhagen, historical Viking sites and sampling the delicious cuisine for which Denmark is renowned.

Your base will be Vingstecentre Holiday Village, which offers rooms specially designed for wheelchairs and full access to all facilities such as jacuzzi, solarium, sauna and one of the best swimming pools in Denmark. Prices from £430.00 per person (inc. Breakfast). Based on twin occupancy.

We offer a new concept in Coaching Holidays for disabled people. Our tours include U.K., Euro Disney, Switzerland

EXCLUSIVE TO
A.T.S. TRAVEL
TELEPHONE
01708 863198

A.T.S. TRAVEL LTD. A.T.S. HOUSE, 1 TANK HILL ROAD, PURFLEET, ESSEX RM16 1SX

Local pick up. All coaches have wheelchair lift, lock downs, tv and video, tea/coffee machine, trained staff



Top amputee golfers

at The Endolite British Open Amputee Golf Championships 1996

Geoff Nicholas, the professional below knee amputee sponsored by Endolite, will be competing at the 1996 Endolite British Open Amputee Golf Championships

The event will be held at Staverton Park Golf Course near Daventry, Northamptonshire, 4th - 7th July.

Endolite has sponsored this event since its inauguration in 1990. It has now become the major European tournament for amputee golfers.

For more information about the golf championships contact Gary Girling or Sue Turner on 01256 465771.

Sporting lower limb amputees appreciate the superior qualities of the Endolite system for activities such as golf.

Endolite Below Knee system

- Standard 35mm kit or for slimmer amputees a 30mm option is available
- Both modules include the popular Endolite alignment device
- Unique combination of superior quality, strength, light weight and natural function
- Demountable adaptor increases modularity
- Separate carbon fibre shin tube

For information about the Endolite Below knee system s contact the Blatchford Sales Department on 01256 465771.

Chas. A. Blatchford & Sons Ltd

Lister Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG22 4AH United Kingdom
Telephone: 01256 465 771 Facsimile: 01256 479 705

ENDOLITE

Video

Above Suspicion

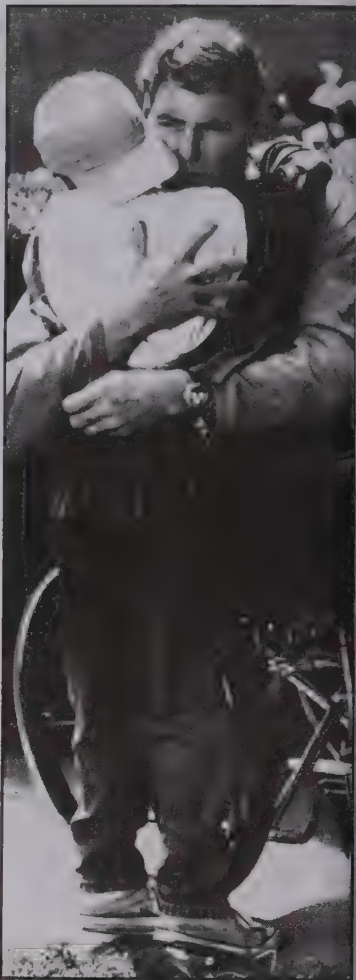
This was the last film made by *Superman* actor Christopher Reeve before breaking his neck. Coincidentally he plays a detective, Dempsey Cain, who is shot and paralysed. After he becomes disabled Dempsey sinks into depression.

He starts to drink heavily and attempts suicide. It is all very stereotypical and is summed up by his wife's comment: "I guess Dempsey just isn't a wheelchair kind of guy". Following his abortive suicide attempt, Dempsey asks his wife and brother to help him end it all, hatching a plot that will facilitate his own demise and allow them to keep \$2 million life insurance. In itself this is a good twist on

the film noir classic *Double Indemnity*, and there are further twists along the way, but Reeve and his co-stars are just not convincing in portraying characters who would carry out such a plot. Reeve is particularly poor in trying to show Dempsey as depressed and despairing, a task made no easier by his character in the early part of the film. He comes across as the type of person who could make

a reasonable adjustment to disability and end up winning gold medals at the Paralympics. This role may not have been entirely right for Reeve, but hopefully it will not be his last. *Superman V* maybe? As Barry Norman put it, and why not? Michael Turner

£12.99. For each copy sold 25p will be donated to the Push 2000 charity for research into spinal cord repair.



Unconvincing: Christopher Reeve in *Above Suspicion*

Look out for

A Sense of Time is an exhibition at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery by disabled photographer Clifford Morris. These black and white images of canals around Birmingham Canal Navigations depict the effects of the seasons on the environment. For details tel: (01922) 59669.

Pathways '96 exhibition and festival is at Westpoint in Exeter from 30 June-1 July. It aims to promote independence and quality of life for people with disabilities. RAC's disabled driver of the year, Bob Nutbean, will be there and the Pathways Gallery will show works of art and literature by disabled people. For details contact Pathways '96, Queensgate House, 48 Queens Street, Exeter EX4 3SR, tel: (01392) 438123.

Video top five

1. **APOLLO 13** (CIC): Tom Hanks gets lost in space.
2. **UNDER SIEGE II** (Warner): Steven Segal fights his way out of another fine mess.
3. **WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING** (Hollywood): Get the Kleenex out as Sandra Bullock and Bill Pullman go all romantic.
4. **BRAVEHEART** (Fox Guild): Oscar winning highland fling.
5. **SPECIES** (MGM/UA): Scary monsters and super creeps.

Chart supplied by MIRB
Closed captions

INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM



A car is essential for an independent life style. But why settle for something ordinary when you could be driving a Volvo - a very individual car indeed.

COMPETITIVELY PRICED
The new Volvo 1996 range starts from £11,652* on the road.

MOTABILITY SCHEME
The range of Volvos is also available under the Motability Hire and Hire Purchase schemes.

VOLVO SAFETY
Volvo safety features fitted as standard include Driver Airbag, Side Impact Protection and seat belt pretensioners. The superb handling, powerful braking and tenacious road holding make them extremely enjoyable as well as extremely safe to drive.

VOLVO PLUS
3 year/60,000 Mile Manufacturers Warranty - One of the most comprehensive available, replaces the parts other manufacturers do not reach.

LOW RUNNING COSTS
Low insurance group ratings and 10,000 mile service intervals help cut your motoring costs**.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS
The Volvo range offers a choice of Saloons, Hatchbacks and Estates all available with a comprehensive selection of options to suit your independent needs.

VOLVO A CAR YOU CAN BELIEVE IN

*Prices quoted include Delivery, Number Plates and 6 months Road Tax. Prices correct at time of going to press. **Excludes diesel vehicles



Please detach and return to Volvo Car UK Ltd, Car Sales Dept., Globe Park Marlow, Buckinghamshire SL7 1YQ. Tel: 01628 477977 DN6/96

Name

Address (including post code)

Telephone Number (including STD code)

Theatre

Breaking the Mould

Television

Chris Davies

The harsh metallic set of the Strathcona Theatre Company's production immediately evokes images of the Nazi gas chambers. So from the start you know that what you are about to watch will have a chilling edge to it.

Breaking the Mould is set in a futuristic dictatorship where the race is on to discover the means to human perfection. Those who fall short of this ideal (the "defectives") are literally ghettoized and only allowed to exist while they serve a purpose. This involves being used for experimentation to further the cause.

In the bleak world of the ghetto two young lovers try to escape to forge a future together and we follow them on their dangerous journey. (Orders have been given to exterminate them when caught.)

The whacky professor (gleefully played by Pius Hickey) is about to make the perfection breakthrough when the radio newflash announces the escape.

It threatens the very fabric of this warped society so Hunter (Graham Evans), one of the professor's earlier creations, is despatched to find and destroy them.

Strathcona bring a wry, ironic humour to this grim subject matter by using visual references to every sci-fi/horror



The horror of eugenics: Sheldon Antoine (left) and Pius Hickey in *Breaking the Mould*

film you can think of. The strong movement pieces that the company are known for are all there too – especially in the ingenious use of mops.

However, the novel L-shaped stage at the Young Vic visibly threw the actors and they were not quite as slick and

surefooted as usual.

The lightness of tone and the understated humour throw into stark relief the darkness of what is actually being said: that selective breeding and the horror of eugenics are a lot closer than we care to think.

Yvonne Lynch

Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds on 31 May, tel: (01284) 769505
Spring Gardens Arts Centre, High Wycombe on 1 June, tel: (01494) 464800
For more information and dates around the country, tel: 0171-383 0866.

Film

Michael Turner

As the centenary of cinema is celebrated, it is good time for a new *Richard III*.



Shakespeare's play was first filmed in 1908, so Ian McKellan's new version could show how the portrayal of disability on screen has changed during the last century.

This film is very different from its predecessors. Richard's murderous conquest to become King of England has been updated to the 1930s and is given an all-action treatment that owes more to Tarantino than Olivier.

Shakespeare purists may be horrified, but it gives the story a genuine cinematic feel: you don't feel you're watching a play.

But the film is a total failure in terms of progress in the portrayal of Richard's disability.

Despite transforming so much, McKellan milks the disability metaphor for all it is worth.

His Richard may not be as hunchbacked as some previous incarnations, but this is made up for with paralysis in his left arm and leg.

McKellan did not need to repeat this crude metaphor. His portrayal of the scheming murderer is excellent and would have been none the worse, and perhaps even better, without the use of a disability.

It is particularly disappointing to see a campaigner for people living with HIV/AIDS treating disability in this way.



Contradiction in terms: Ian McKellan as a disabled fascist

Furthermore, portraying Richard as a disabled person sits uncomfortably with the rest of the treatment of the play.

Richard's ability to be such an action man in a modern army is questionable. But even more dubious, the film presents Richard as a fascist dictator once he attains the throne. A disabled fascist? Surely a contradiction in terms.

Having updated so much, it is a shame that McKellan did not discard Richard's disability to give us a real sign of progress.



This Volker Home Nursing Bed from **BaKare Beds** is fully adjustable to 'Sit U up' at the touch of a button, and with motorised height adjustment to 'stand U' up', or for Nursing.

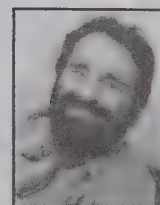
DON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES !

This is a Multifunctional Nursing Bed with height adjustment.



Unit 17, Bell Park, Bell Close, Plympton, PLYMOUTH PL7 4JH. Tel :01 752 34 22 22

The tenth year of this column ends with a programme about how tv and film represent disability.



Channel 4's *Without Walls* gave half a programme to disabled actor Nabil Shaban in *Supercrips and Rejects* (9 May).

No matter how strongly advocated the arguments are, they haven't changed much in the last decade. This is probably because tv and film haven't learnt much either.

Shaban's "body fascism" lecture gets a bit weary after a while. He, like most of us, is very good at identifying what's wrong but not so good at constructively planning ahead.

One of the contributors, Paul Darke, made the point that he would be happy to see the bad examples continue, providing there were as many good ones.

But what is good? Casting disabled actors would be welcome, but that ignores the quality of the context. Everyone slams *Eldorado*, but Julie Fernandez' character there was infinitely better than her one in the more popular *Dangerfield*. None of this means the arguments in Shaban's programme are no longer valid. But sooner or later we have to move on into the grey areas and become more constructive.

In the coming general election, there will be a Labour candidate who is a wheelchair user. This is a testimony to the fact that some people feel disability is not an electoral liability.

However, when Franklin Roosevelt was planning a political career and contracted polio, he felt obliged to hide this from the public.

In the American series *FDR* (BBC2, April 20), the full extent of this was explained and the methods he used were very effective – the American public never knew how immobile he was. I wonder whether a presidential candidate would feel obliged to do so today and if it would prevent their election.

I don't often comment on cable tv but *I, Claudius* (UK Gold, 5 May) must be an exception. This seventies BBC serial features one of the best disabled characters in drama who is the centrepiece of the whole story. If we are going to portray disability positively, this is a classic precedent.

Next month, I'll be looking back over the last decade and looking ahead to a, hopefully, more positive future.

Look like a million dollars

...and spend less than £150. Alison Miller and Hannah Crabtree find some glamorous gowns for brides on a budget.



Something old – well, nearly new. Katie models her favourite dress.

You've booked the church, ordered the cake and sent out the invitations. All you need now is the right outfit and your wedding day will be perfect.

For many brides finding the right dress is the most important thing (or maybe a close second to finding the right man). Sadly, it can also be the most expensive with the cost running into thousands.

Charity shops have taken up the challenge and many now have bridal wear departments stocking everything for your big day from veils, shoes and bridesmaids' dresses to top hat and tails.

These items are all second-hand but most have only been worn once and there are plenty of beautiful bargains to be found. Prices vary, but wedding dresses are usually around £60-£120.

DN asked Katie Kiel, information and training officer at Coventry University, to try out a few dresses at the Scope shop in Leamington Spa.

Katie, who is deaf, married her husband, Conrad, four years ago. I asked her if she had considered wearing a second-hand outfit for her big day.

"No, but I tried on some brand new dresses from bridal shops, picked out the one I liked, then asked a friend to copy the dress for me. The material cost me £50 – a bit cheaper than the original £1,500!"

Katie was impressed with the range of styles in the Scope shop. "If I get married again," she joked, "I'll look for something like one of the dresses I tried on here and alter it."

Thanks to House of Silk for the flowers, tel: (01926) 424826.

Where to find the dress of your dreams...

Scope shops:

Leamington Spa, tel: (01926) 832087
 Burton-on-Trent, tel: (01283) 531189
 Hinckley, tel: (01455) 890854
 Grantham, tel: (01476) 592171
 Hatfield, tel: (01707) 264644
 Wakefield, tel: (01924) 379258
 Hull, tel: (01482) 323298
 Northwich, tel: (01606) 350065
 Oxfam:
 Bradford, tel: (01274) 306700
 Coventry, tel: (01203) 448909



Ribbons and bows: the Leamington Spa shop has every kind of style from *Gone with the Wind* (left) to graceful lace (right)



The finishing touch: manager Yvonne Munroe helps Katie try on one of the shop's many head dresses

IAN BLOOMFIELD



Always the bridesmaid: a wedding wouldn't be complete without bridesmaids and dresses for them come in lots of shapes and sizes

HELP WITH DAILY LIVING

From

Chester-care

Making Independent Life at Home Easier

FREE CATALOGUE

Simple, easy to use gadgets not readily available elsewhere

- Full 48 page colour catalogue
- For an easier and safer way of life at home
- Simple, easy to use gadgets - not readily available elsewhere
- Fast efficient mail order service
- Just complete the coupon or give us a call

BATH LIFTS, SEATS & BOARDS

STICKS, FRAMES AND WHEELCHAIRS

To encourage mobility.

To enable easy bathing.

CHAIRS

To assist in rising and support

HOUSEHOLD GADGETS

Useful items to help with daily living.

TRAYS, TROLLEYS & CUTLERY

To help when carrying and eating food.

FOR YOUR FREE CATALOGUE AND INFORMATION PACK TELEPHONE 01623 757955 OR WRITE TO THE ADDRESS BELOW

Chester-care

SIDINGS ROAD, LOWMOOR IND. ESTATE, KIRKBY IN ASHFIELD, NOTTS NG17 7JZ

TEL: 01623 - 757955

*Trademark of Smith & Nephew

For your FREE Chester-care* catalogue and Information Pack, simply fill out the coupon and send it to the address opposite.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

A Division of Smith & Nephew Homecraft Ltd DN129S

Have you got the guts to go it alone?

Natalie Noor reports on the Prince's Youth Business Trust

Whatever help is on offer, it seems to work. An independent audit showed that over 60 per cent of PYBT businesses were still trading after three years.

Michelle Osborne is another of the success stories. Her clinic at Copthall Stadium, London, offers massage and aromatherapy for sports injuries. Soothing music plays in the background while Bonny, Michelle's guide dog, lies in a basket. "Everyone comments on how therapeutic she is when she snores," laughs Michelle.

Advice on tap

Michelle was unemployed after graduating from the Royal National College for the Blind in Hereford in 1991. As the Hereford course had been geared towards people setting up their own business, Michelle decided to give that a try. Before doing so, she completed a basic sports injury course with the Football Association.

No-one would fund her initially, so the Royal National Institute for the Blind put her in touch with the PYBT. At first they were sceptical, says

Michelle, but in the end they gave her a grant of £1,500 and a loan of £2,500 to set up

advice and support.

"I don't think most people realise how much work is

dollop of initiative." She demonstrated hers by inviting the Olympic swimmer Sharon Davies to perform the opening ceremony at the clinic.

The business is doing well. She still encounters the occasional bout of prejudice, but this is more to do with other people's perception of her job rather than her disability. "My foreign customers are by far the best because most of them don't see massage as a seedy sort of therapy associated with sex."

Odds to overcome

Her first priority is the clinic, but she also has clients in the RNIB and even pays the occasional visit to the PYBT's head office to give massages. "You can't run the risk of ruining several opportunities by channelling energy into just one area," she says.

"Nobody owes you anything because you have odds to overcome. You have got to go out like anybody else would and apply to charities and keep your fingers crossed. They are very supportive."

Sonia Green, a PYBT board member for the London region, agrees. "You must have tenacity and a very thick skin because people will more often say 'you can't do that' rather than 'you can'."

"Most of all, have faith in yourself, that against all odds you can do it."

The Princes Youth Business Trust, 18 Park Square East, London NW1 4LH, tel: 0171-543 1234



Michelle (right) at an outdoor gala marking the 25,000th PYBT loan

"Michelle Osborne Treatment".

Like everyone else helped by the Trust, Michelle was allocated a business advisor, in her case a chartered accountant, who will offer

involved in setting up a business," says Michelle. Her clinic, now four years old, began as a storage room. "Nobody, whether able bodied or disabled, has a chance of doing it unless you have a huge

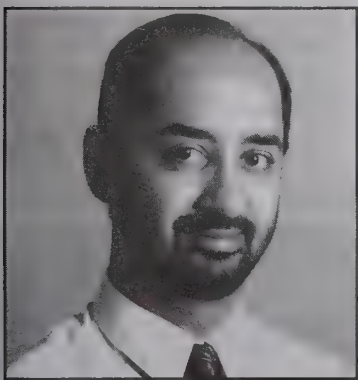
Three years ago, Shahab Reza, who is deaf, wanted to set up his own accountancy firm. Like many other business success stories, he was turned down for a bank loan more than once.

In the end he turned to the Prince's Youth Business Trust (PYBT), which helps more than 3,500 young people a year in England, Wales and Northern Ireland set up their own businesses. In 1994/95, 176 young people with disabilities benefited from the Trust's cash and expertise.

Shahab was given a grant of £1,500, which he used to buy software to start up Deaf Accountancy Services. (Due to the public attitude towards his deafness, he later changed the name to Shahab Reza FIAB and Registered Bookkeeper).

His base of deaf (and hearing) clients ranges from disability charities to businesses in Britain and abroad. He works from home in London, communicating through Tynetalk, minicom, fax, lip reading or sign language.

"There is a lot of competition and unless you can offer high



Shahab Reza: "offer quality"

quality work, you will lose out to others," says Shahab. "Most of all, you need confidence. If you believe in yourself, so will your clients."

"I hope that other deaf people will see what I am doing and know that they can succeed too," says Shahab. "I also hope that when people see me, they will realise that a deaf person can do this job just as well as a hearing person."

Success in action

To qualify for help from the Trust, you need to be aged 18-29, or 18-30 if you have a disability. Panels of local business people around the country assess the potential and viability of each proposal.

All the young person needs, according to the Trust, is a realistic business idea and the determination to make it succeed. In return, the Trust offers a loan or grant, business and marketing support, advice and encouragement.

You will need to show that you have tried to raise the money first from the usual commercial lenders such as banks.



As easy as 123

Constables unique Carchair system provides the ultimate freedom and independence for the wheelchair user. By adapting into either the passenger or drivers seat of a standard production car; the Carchair eliminates the need to purchase a special vehicle.

Comprising of a specially designed wheelchair and lift system the Carchair is extremely simple to operate.

To arrange a free demonstration of this, or any Constables product without obligation, please telephone or write.



Constables LTD

CONSTABLES LTD • DEPT DN • FREEPOST (BR1032) • WESTHAM • PEVENSEY • EAST SUSSEX • BN24 5BR • TELEPHONE: (01323) 767574

ADHD – How to Deal with Very Difficult Children

By Alan Train
£8.99, Souvenir Press

This is a welcome addition to the growing number of books about behavioural disorders in children.

Headmaster Alan Train has worked with children with behavioural difficulties for many years and offers "practical techniques to help solve one of today's most challenging problems".

In the main, his book lives up to this claim and is relevant to teachers, parents and other professionals.

It starts with an excellent real life account of Liz, an exhausted parent, her uncontrollable, abusive and aggressive son Simon and the distressing crisis they face before receiving help. It admirably conveys the mounting stresses, isolation and despair such parents suffer.

Then there is a comprehensive description of the complex symptoms and causes of Attention Deficit Disorder (ADHD), thankfully written without the usual professional jargon and broken down into clear, readable sections.

The second half concentrates

on the management techniques Alan Train considers essential in helping these young people, and the conclusion of Simon's story and its positive outcome.

I am northern regional co-ordinator for the Hyperactive Children's Support Group and welcome a book on this subject which, for once, does not concentrate solely on the benefits of medication.

But I was disappointed that drug therapy was still suggested as a necessary complement to the management techniques, and other approaches, such as dietary intervention, barely considered.

Also, I think the implication that parents will automatically find the help they desperately need simply by asking their GP or educational specialist, is optimistic if not unrealistic.

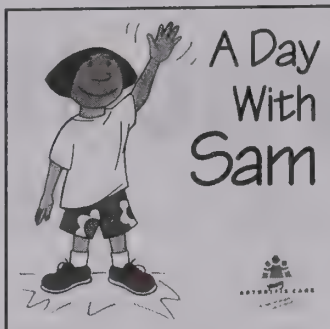
Nevertheless, teachers and parents will find the practical management section extremely helpful. It's worth reading for that alone.

Nicky Simmons

Souvenir Press, 43 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PA, tel: 0171-580 9307

Hyperactive Children's Support Group, 71 Whyke Lane, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 2LD

Book news



A Day with Sam is an illustrated children's story for young people with arthritis. Written by Debbie Hunsley, mother of a child with arthritis, it explains the treatment children can expect to have and has a list of useful addresses for parents. Free (but donations appreciated) from Arthritis Care, 18 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD, tel: 0171-916 1500.

Life and Limb by Alun Lewin is for prosthetic users and their carers. Lewin, himself an amputee, talks about surgery, clothing and sport. £11 including p&p from Plasma Print, 4 Wilton Hollow, Amersham Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2EJ, tel: (01494) 673615.

Brenton's Story: an autobiographical account of one young man's struggle with muscular dystrophy by Brenton Wilson describes his life in Australia. £4.95 from The Children's Society, Edward Rudolf House, Margery Street, London WC1X 0JL, tel: 0171-837 4299.

Antioxidant Nutrition by Rita Greer and Dr Robert Woodward offers suggestions of the types of food that may help protect the body against cancer and degenerative diseases. £6.99 from Souvenir Press.

ANTIOXIDANT NUTRITION

Rita Greer & Dr Robert Woodward



Nature's Protectors
Against Ageing, Cancer and
Degenerative Diseases

Telesafe: Harassment at Home and Post Office Safety
£170, Hebden Lindsay

These videos are designed to raise awareness about personal safety for people with learning difficulties. I watched them with a group of tutors from Lufton Manor College for students with learning difficulties.

Harassment at Home provides a useful introduction. In it the video is shown to service users in their own home followed by a discussion. This session is led by a support worker. A representative of People First and the support worker then make positive comments about videos.

This is followed by comments from members of the public about people with learning disabilities and the need to raise awareness of their needs. It also highlights liaison between the police and social services.

Post Office Safety could be a useful learning resource. Clear speech and language is used. The first scenario deals with a woman with learning difficulties who is taunted by a group of teenagers. The second shows a man collecting his benefits from the local post office. In both cases the video deals clearly with the right and wrong ways of addressing the situation.

Mary Evans

"I picked up a copy of *Disability Now*

for the very first time and felt compelled

to write and say thank you, and congratulations

on an excellent newspaper." Pamela Breakwell, Boston, Lincs

Do you feel this way about *Disability Now*? Is there someone you know who should read it too? If so, please tell them about us. They can order a copy at their newsagents or pick one up every month at Sainsbury, Menzies, Forbuoys and selected local newsagents.

DisabilityNOW

The award winning newspaper for everyone with an interest in disability

Your stars

By *DN's*
astrologer
Marion
Stanton



GEMINI (22 May-22 June)
There will be an opportunity to clear the air with loved ones and maybe romance mid June. You have lots of energy and ideas but don't run ahead of yourself.

CANCER (23 June-23 July)
Beware of over-indulgence around the 4th. As the sun enters your sign on the 22nd re-examine some goals.

LEO (24 July-23 Aug)
If you're looking to make changes at home the 19th is a good day. Don't force issues earlier as it might cause conflict with a partner or parent.

VIRGO (24 Aug-23 Sept)
The Sun, Mercury, Mars and Venus are set to square your sun sometime this month bringing tension. Listen to advice from those you trust and frustration could turn into inspiration.

LIBRA (24 Sept-23 Oct)
You might think you can get anything this month, but don't take things for granted. Things you want could come to you, but you'll have to work to hang on to them.

SCORPIO (24 Oct-22 Nov)
Things should be a little quieter this month than they have been of late. Make the most of the lull to rest and be ready for busy times ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (23 Nov-21 Dec)
Things could get stressful around mid June. Don't try to persuade anyone, especially lovers, to your point of view. Think about whether you really mean what you want to say first.

CAPRICORN (22 Dec-20 Jan)
You will enjoy an easier time in June than you have in the last month or two. Relax and enjoy, as the opportunity doesn't come that often.

AQUARIUS (21 Jan-19 Feb)
You may have cause to look closely at some of the decisions you have recently made. Don't be afraid to change your mind. Rome wasn't built in a day.

PISCES (20 Feb-20 March)
This is a challenging time for you professionally and personally. If the groundwork has been well thought out, you could be on to a winner. Otherwise watch out and keep your head down. There may be worse to come.

ARIES (21 March-20 April)
Emotions run high around the 10th. If this is a difficult time look at it as a passing phase. But if it works out — enjoy.

TAURUS (21 April-21 May)
You are enjoying a new sense of freedom. Don't take loved ones for granted while you explore your new and easier life. They might still be struggling!



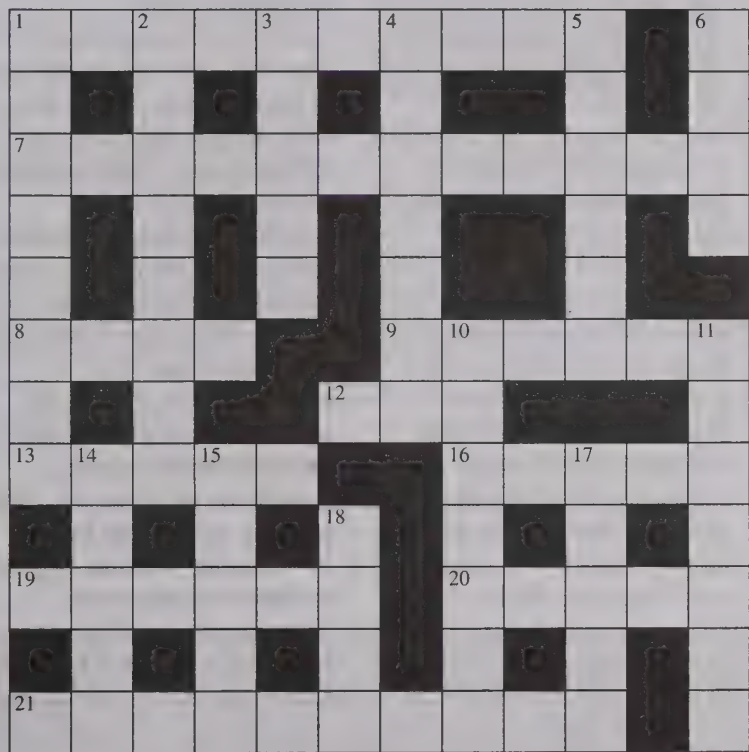
Create-a-caption and win £10!

This log sculpture of mythical pagan symbol the Green Man (weighing half a ton!) is at the multi-sensory garden at Shorne Wood near Gravesend. Can you see the wood for the trees and tell us what (left-right) sculptor Steve Portchmouth, the Green Man or park ranger Mark Read are saying? Answers to *DN* caption competition, address on page 2.

DN's crossword

Answers on page 29

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

1. One type of wheelchair user (10)
7. Electricity network (8,4)
8. Female relative (4)
9. Town or type of cake (6)
12. Source of metal (3)
13. Permit (5)
16. Madagascan animal (5)
19. Large pit (6)
20. Occupied (2,3)
21. Nailed rope (anag) — tough time

DOWN

1. View ___ of current affairs? (8)
2. On a trail (anag)
3. Snapshot (5)
4. Barn eel (anag) ___ helper
5. Enclosure ___ okay? (6)
6. Sea change? (4)
10. Italian sculptor (7)
11. Nose rug (anag)
14. Big (5)
15. Frequently (5)
17. Hillcock (5)
18. Accurate (4)

Trivia teasers

Answers on page 29.

1. Which American president used a wheelchair?
2. The Uffizi gallery is in which Italian city?
3. Which *Carry On* actress now stars in *EastEnders*?
4. Who are the Biker Mice from Mars?
5. Who wrote *Sense and Sensibility*?
6. Beauty of Bath, Red Delicious and Braeburn are all types of what?
7. Which football team are nicknamed "the magpies"?
8. Which famous pop group recently topped the charts with their version of the Bee Gees' *How Deep is Your Love*?
9. Who in the Bible was famous for his wisdom?
10. It's the name of one of the most famous films ever, but where is Casablanca?

Win tickets worth £40 to the world's biggest military air show

See May's *DN* or tel: 0171-636 5020 ext 245 for details.



BACKPAIN • ARTHRITIS • HIATUS HERNIA

The Concern for Comfort Adjustable Bed has proved to be a boon to sufferers of a wide variety of medical conditions. If you are troubled by:



- arthritis/ rheumatism
- high & low back pain
- hiatus hernia
- swollen legs/ oedema
- poor circulation
- tight shoulders
- respiratory problems
- stress & tension



CONCERN FOR COMFORT
...the rest comes naturally

Send for a FREE colour brochure

FREEPHONE 0800 371663

Name(Title) _____
Phone _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

CONCERN FOR COMFORT • FREEPOST (PAM 6722) LONDON W13 0BR

DISABILITIES access

Now part of the Healthworks
Online health & medical
information service

Disabilities Access is a free internet based information service for people with disabilities and those who care for them. The service features: *News, Directories, Job Vacancies, Factsheets, Travel information, a Motoring section and Online shopping.* The information provided on the service is relevant to both the general public and care professionals.

To take a look at Disabilities Access, point your Web browser at the URL: <http://www.healthworks.co.uk/> If you would like to promote your organisation, products or services on Disabilities Access contact Steve McCann on 0113 234 6624 or E-mail us on: info@d-access.demon.co.uk

Healthworks

30-38 DOCK STREET,
LEEDS LS10 1JF, ENGLAND



Paradise costs

- love and loneliness
- bereavement
- personal problems
- advice and support

A UNIQUE SERVICE!

DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick can give disabled people and carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Disabled herself, Lin is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor, fully accredited Methodist local preacher and qualified homeopath. Call (01708) 477582 on Thursday afternoons, 1pm-5pm, and Mondays, 6pm-10pm.



Sponsored by BT

Send your letters to: Ann Darnbrough, *Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Dear Ann

I do enjoy reading *DN*, but tend to get frustrated when you give details of holidays which are well beyond my means. As a disabled person, I feel left out again. It doesn't matter how accessible somewhere is if you can't afford to go in the first place.

Fred, Oldham

Many of the exotic places in glossy brochures look tempting but are out of our reach. Of course, they may not be so exciting in reality – we'll never know. I've always wanted to go to the Galapagos Islands, but I don't think it will ever happen. Mind you, I am told that they are now so overrun with tourists as to threaten the habitats of the giant tortoises and other creatures which have made the islands so attractive.

However, you may be interested to hear of a new guide from the Holiday Care Service, *A Guide to Financial Help Towards the Cost of a Holiday*. It is packed with details of trusts that can help disabled people, women and children, even people with

particular occupations such as fish fryers and hairdressers (yes, I'm serious). These organisations are unlikely to fund exotic holidays, but a contribution to a break is always welcome.

Dear Ann

I have a genetic foot structural problem called *pes cavus*, or "claw foot". When I walk, my foot expands lengthways up to two shoe sizes. Since receiving a pair of shoe insoles for this problem, I have recently developed severe leg pains. I would be grateful for any advice, particularly if there is an organisation that can help me.

As an incidental, Ann, I am also schizophrenic and have problems with voices and depression. Can you help me?

Tom, Mitcham

It is strange just how difficult it can be to find shoes that are comfortable and attractive. Your doctor needs to refer you back to the limb centre (and back again), until they find the right ones for you.

There are also some

voluntary organisations which may be able to help. Arthritis Care publish a booklet, *Comfortable Feet*, and the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council has *Choosing Shoes for Patients* (don't be put off by the language).

The clothing and footwear adviser at the Disabled Living Foundation is glad to provide information to individuals with specific problems.

As to schizophrenia, I am sure you will have talked to your doctor about the problems you are experiencing. Quite a number of people are now able to control their "voices", at least to some extent, and some are able to feel reasonably positive about them. The National Schizophrenia Fellowship has local groups run by the Voices Forum. As its leaflet says: "There is real identification between many Voices members, born of their experiences of schizophrenia and its treatment, even though people's experiences always vary." You may also like to contact Hearing Voices Network, which has a number of groups around the UK.

Dear Ann

I have a rare, neuromuscular disease that affects my speech, hearing, and confines me to a wheelchair, but I am attractive and look after my appearance. Despite all I do I am extremely lonely and often weep with emptiness. I often ask myself just why I cannot find a partner, when I have so much to give. One of my problems is that I set standards too high, so I am my own worst enemy.

I am lucky in so much as I have had relationships but none of them has ever lasted. They were more or less flings and left me feeling pretty desperate and used. I have had relationships with able-bodied and disabled men. This has left me with a definite preference for a similarly aged (I am 30), able-bodied man. It is extremely difficult going out with a similarly disabled guy. He has difficulty helping himself, let alone me too. Older guys are sympathetic but see me as some "helpless cripple" in need of a companion.

I am no virgin and love sex dearly. Being isolated from any form of physical contact is very

hard. I love to explore, touch and caress a partner's body when he is lying close to me. Being wrapped securely in my lover's arms is my idea of sheer heaven.

I have tried my damndest to meet Mr Right – I have been married, I socialise, and I have joined dating agencies – but "he" is still elusive. Is it my destiny never to be happy?

Sheila, Crowborough

I am not sure whether it is right to say you are your own worst enemy for setting high standards. There can be a great deal of unhappiness in store for people whose standards are set low in desperation.

Maybe you should leave it open as to whether you choose an able-bodied or disabled man: falling in love takes us all by surprise and leaves us little opportunity to select particular abilities or appearances.

You obviously enjoyed your flings at the time and they left you with a better understanding of your sexual preferences and needs. Life is all about experience and how you use it. It is likely that your passing lovers hugely enjoyed the experience too, and it might be a pity if you devalued your sexual encounters just because they didn't blossom into long-term relationships. Survivors can be marked out by their insistence to determine their own destiny, and I have a strong feeling that you are a survivor. We just never know what life holds for us. It is how we handle it that counts, and being ready for the good times when they come.

Arthritis Care, 18 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD
Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, PO Box 177, Chesterfield S41 7TO. Send large SAE in both instances.

Disabled Living Foundation, 380-384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU

National Schizophrenia Advice Line, tel: 0181-974 6814

Voice Forum: Wales (01495) 220 954, London, 0181-883 3627, Midlands, (01926) 641048

Hearing Voices Network, tel: 0161-228 3896

Holiday Care Service, tel: (01293) 774535



UNIVERSAL MOBILITY LTD

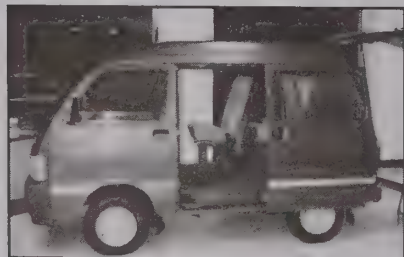
Master Craftsmen Working For You

Head Office: Jordans, Partridge Lane, Rusper, Sussex RH12 4RW Tel No: 01293 871019

Superior vehicle conversions for people with disabilities wishing to travel in their own wheelchairs.

Introducing three of our top selling vehicles:

DAIHATSU FREEDOM



This impressive small vehicle can carry up to 4 passengers and one wheelchair passenger.

VW CARAVELLE



Our multi purpose people carrier. So flexible it can carry up to three wheelchair passengers.

FIAT FIORINO



One of our best sellers. Economical and carries up to four passengers and one wheelchair passenger.

You can buy, lease or contract hire any of our vehicles. Also available on Motability.

Works & Northern Office: Unit 2, Royd Mill, Dyehouse Lane, Brighouse HD6 1LL

Tel No: 01484 400795

Full range of driving adaptations supplied or fitted. Swivel seats also available.

Fire trace system fitted on all new and used vehicles.

NO NONSENSE VEHICLE CONVERSION

What's on

Conference about adults with learning disabilities on 5 June at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells in Wales. For details contact the National Organisation for Adult Learning, 21 De Montfort Street, Leicester LE1 7GE, tel: 0116-255 1451.

1st Anglian Disability Equipment exhibition at Banham in Norfolk on 5-6 June. For more information contact Russell Howes, Birds Farm, Flordon, Norwich NR15 1RN, tel: (01508) 470200.

Arthritis open day at Walsall Town Hall on 7 June. Free admission. For details contact Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, 23 Churchside Way, Aldridge WS9 8XG, tel: (01922) 56261.

Promoting the Health of Children, a one-day conference organised by the British Association for Community Child Health on 13 June at Consultancy Courses Centre, London SE1. For details contact the National Children's Bureau, 8 Wadley Street, London EC1V 7QE, tel: 0171-843 6000.

Caring for Children with Complex Needs is a workshop-based conference on 15 June at BAA Group Management Centre, near Gatwick, West Sussex. £60 - discounts for students and parents. For details contact Emma Gardner, conference co-ordinator, The Children's Trust, Tadworth Court, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5RU, tel: (01737) 357171.

Carers' forum, at Leatherhead Leisure Centre, Guildford Road, Leatherhead, Surrey on 18 June. For more details contact Action For Carers, "Astolat", Coniers Way, New Inn Lane, Burpham, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7HL, tel: (01483) 302748.

Family weekend, organised by Friends for Young Deaf People (FYD) at Hastings on 21-23 June. £70 per family of four with reductions for single parents. For more information contact FYD Training Centre, Ladywood Art and Leisure Centre, Freeth Street, Birmingham B16 0QT, tel: 0121-456 1038, minicom: 0121-454 0338.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Paraplegic
7. National grid 8. Aunt
9. Eccles 12. Ore 13. Allow
16. Lemur 19. Crater 20. In use 21. Lean period
DOWN 1. Panorama
2. Rational 3. Photo
4. Enabler 5. Corral 6. Tide
10. Cellini 11. Surgeon
14. Large 15. Often
17. Mound 18. True

More positive sounds

BBC Radio Merseyside's programme for disabled people, *Sounds Positive*, has had its run extended indefinitely. Goodies in store: June 5, fashion special; June 12, crime and disability. Wednesdays at 6.30pm, repeated Fridays at 6.30pm

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Franklin D Roosevelt
2. Florence 3. Barbara Windsor 4. Cartoon characters 5. Jane Austen
6. Apple 7. Newcastle United 8. Take That
9. Solomon 10. Morocco

Info

The Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH) has produced five free leaflets for young people with these conditions. Tel: (01733) 555988.

The Architectural Association (AA) runs a postgraduate diploma in environmental access. Contact Belinda Flaherty, AA, 34-36 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3ES, tel: 0171-636 0974.

BACUP, the charity dedicated to helping people live with cancer, now has a minicom. Cancer information service tel/minicom: 0171-613 2121, Freephone (voice/minicom): (0800) 181199.

Speak Out is a newsletter about the risk to disabled people from violence and oppression. A subscription costs £10. Contact *Speak Out*, 2 Eastbourne Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 7HN, tel: (01225) 753984.



AT
WESTPOINT
EXETER

EXHIBITION & FESTIVAL

Pathways events promote and celebrate independence and quality of life for people with disabilities.

The Westcountry's *major* event, welcoming people with disabilities, their carers, family and friends.

30th June & 1st July 1996 10am-5pm

Join us for this second free event!

- * Extensive selection of exhibits
- * Art activities and demonstrations
- * Live theatre performances
- * Information seminars
- * Sports activities and demonstrations
- * Play areas for children
- * The Piazza - Pathways new restaurant
- * Information exchange
- * Speakers corner

Whatever your preference, there are many things to do and see at PATHWAYS 96

MAKE A DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

Pathways 96, Queensgate House, 48 Queens St, Exeter EX4 3SR

For advice and information about all aspects of the event call:

EVENT HOTLINE: TEL. (01392) 438123

identify yourself

date: 6 july 1996 theme: generations of activism
march: noon, hyde park - houses of parliament
festival: 2.30 till 10.00 clapham common
stalls: to book phone 01491 572 550
merchandise: clone zone 0171 737 3636
volunteers: stewards & collectors call 0171 737 1198
coaches: all coaches must register

disabled access information: 0891 310 488

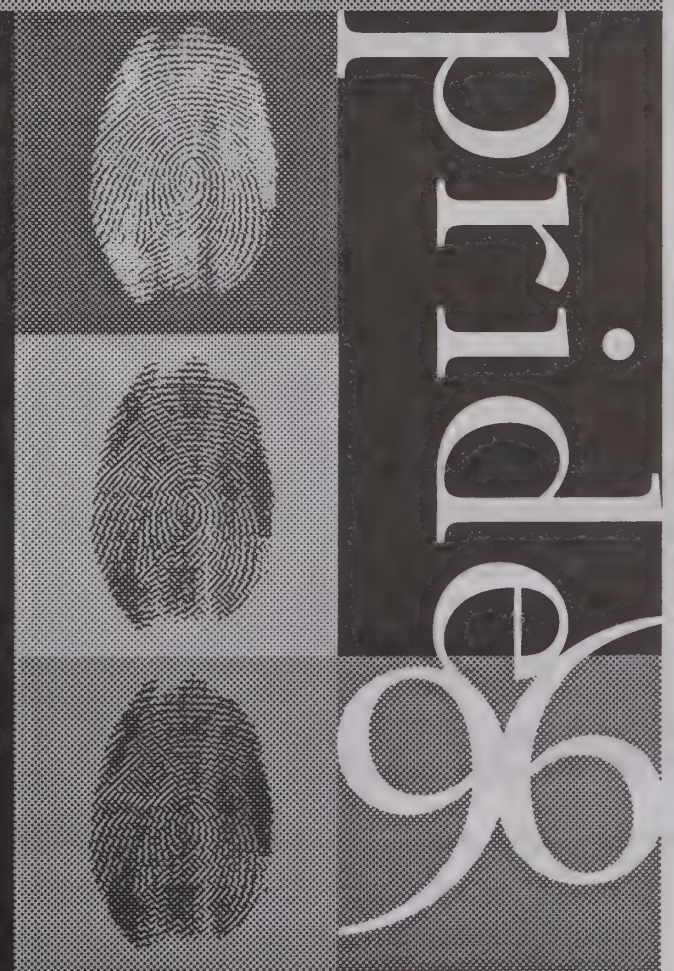
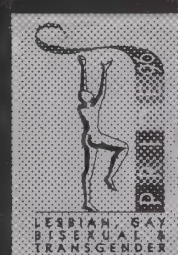
if you wish to make use of the pride mobility bus service or have any

enquiries call: 0171 737 6903 (voice + minicom)

web: <http://www.pride.org.uk>

supported by the 7 inner London district health authorities

the following sponsors are helping to keep pride free



Help

Does anybody know Denis Gleves (date of birth 1946/7)? He attended the Spastic Centre of New South Wales at Queen Street, Mosman, Sydney almost 30 years ago. Please contact Colin Fairclough, The Salvation Army, Family Tracing Service, 105-109 Judd Street, King's Cross, London WC1H 9TS.

Are you part of a support group for independent living? SILICA, based in Cumbria, is a group for people who live or are considering moving into their own homes. They would like to hear from similar groups. Contact SILICA, 23 Mayo Street, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0BY.

Secret filming for tv. Would you like to film discrimination and difficulties that disabled people face daily for a tv documentary? Write to tv help, DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

Property for sale

SEMI-DETACHED CHALET-STYLE house. Modernised, extended and adapted for maximum possible wheelchair access. Ramps front and rear. Wide doors, mostly sliding. Stannah stairlift. Two reception, two bed and two toilet/shower rooms. Large low level kitchen. Wide driveway plus car port. Coney Hall, West Wickham, Kent. Easy access to local amenities. For sale freehold £115,000. Contact Ian James on tel: 0181-462 5586 (evenings) or (01322) 222211 (day).

STEVENAGE THREE BEDROOM house. Adapted for wheelchair user. Through floor lift. Ramps to front and rear. Level access shower. Central heating. Very close to doctor's and shops. £45,000. Tel: 0181-364 6586.

.. time was running out for Joe, when..

ADVICE FROM PROFESSIONAL DISABLED PEOPLE

ONE STOP ONLY ALL YEAR ROUND EXHIBITION.
Car parking, Showroom, Toilet all accessible.

GBL Wheelchair Services Ltd,
Units 1 - 4, Shield Drive, Brentford.
Middx TW8 9EX
Tel: 0181 569 8955 Fax 0181 560 5380

Regional Office: Unit 3, Minster Court,
Courtwick Lane, Littlehampton, W. Sussex.
BN17 7RN
Tel: 01903 733528 Fax: 01903 733530

GBL Eastern: Ermine Street North,
Papworth Everard, Cambridgeshire, CB3 8RG
Tel: 01480 831212 Fax: 01480 831414

..WHEELCHAIR WAREHOUSE

that's the place, It has the largest choice in ranges of Manual Chairs-Scooters-Power Chairs plus any other product lines I need.

I'll give them a ring...



SPECIALLY ADAPTED THREE bedroom semi detached bungalow. Suitable for a severely disabled person. Principal bedroom with shower and toilet en-suite. Wide doors. No steps. Situated in caring village by the New Forest. Tel: (01725) 510449.

WEST SUSSEX, NR HORSHAM

A substantial four bedroom character house with adjoining spacious self-contained annexe specifically designed to provide ground floor accommodation for wheelchair, first floor room for carers, bathroom with Apollo bath and covered way to indoor swimming pool with Arjo lifting hoist.

Further details from
Hamptons on 01403 211766

For sale

TERRY'S ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR step lift. Floor space approximately 48in by 30in with hand rails at the sides. Will rise to 45in. £700 ono. Tel: 0181-426 1710.

FORD TRANSIT VAN. Standard height. 100 litre. Red. First registered 1 August '89. 2 litre petrol. 59,700 miles. Two owners. 12 months MOT with service history from new. Fitted with side door powered wheelchair lift, HBC Junior 200. Captain's swivel passenger seat. £6,500 ovno. Tel: (01832) 293347 or fax: (01832) 293375.

SUNRISE MEDICAL MIDI 4 scooter. 18 months old but hardly used. Weather-proof canopy included. Sale due to illness of owner. £900 ono. Tel: (01305) 770585.

HONDA NIPPI 50CC tricycle. Professional conversion for wheelchair. Roadgoing machine. 35mph. Simple to use. Great fun. Covered only 200 miles. MOT. L plate legal. Cost £3,995 new, only £1,200. Try it, you'll love it! Tel: (01243) 266143.

AUSTIN METRO CHAIRMAN. B reg. 44,000 miles. Rear access for wheelchair by manual ramp. Very reliable. £2,250 ono. Tel: (01689) 834025 (Kent).

FORD ESCORT AUTO F reg. MOT. Full left hand controls. Power assisted steering. Vacuum brakes. Electric rising seat. Autochair. Only 26,000 miles. Alarmed. 1.6 litre. Remote locking. £3,600. Tel: 0181-959 0398 (Edgware)

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR CARTER Crusader. Three years old. Hardly used. Excellent condition. £600 ono. Tel: 0151-722 3869 (Liverpool).

AUTOMATIC ELECTRIC BED. 3ft divan with headboard. Excellent condition. Push button control for raising/lowering both ends. Tel: (01376) 322449 (Braintree, Essex).

ATTENDANT MANUAL WHEELCHAIR. As new. Adjustable arm rests. By Days Medical Aids. £200 ono. Tel: (01284) 752925 (Suffolk).

FIESTA CHAIRMAN. M reg. 1,500 miles. Excellent condition. Ex Gowrings. Carries four plus wheelchair. £9,750. Tel: (01179) 865460.

For sale

powerchairs

Est 1982

MOBILITY CONSULTANTS

New and Nearly New, Electric Wheelchairs, 3 and 4 wheel Scooters, Lift/Rec Chairs, Beds, etc.

All models wanted and for sale.
The right one to suit your needs.



Ring Free anytime
0500 357 496
or 0121 353 7975

All major credit cards accepted



Free advice, delivery, collection, all areas covered. Fully guaranteed.

FOLDING WHEELCHAIR. As new. Never used. £100. Tel: (01434) 601471 (Hexham).

ELITE WHISPER KERB climbing electric wheelchair with separate charger. £910. Tel: (6pm-8pm) (01278) 457525 (Bridge-water).

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE REGISTER

ARE YOU HAVING PROBLEMS LOCATING THE USED VEHICLE YOU NEED OR DISPOSING OF YOUR EXISTING VEHICLE?

Register your requirements or vehicle for sale with the Wheelchair accessible vehicle register and let us match buyer with seller.

For full details of this new service telephone
(01202) 814112

Why not purchase your books through our Mail Order Service?

For a free book list please contact:

AMEUR INTERNATIONAL
PO Box 116, Woodford Green,
Essex IG8 7LB
Tel: 0181 559 0852 Fax: 0181 559 0843

For Sale Sunrise Medical Sterling 4 Scooter GL

With all weather canopy, almost new, in good condition, looking for offers around £2,000.

Any enquiries contact:
A. Boxall at National Westminster Bank, Surbiton to arrange viewing.
(0181 399 0650)

For sale continued
pages 32, 33, 34, 35

CHILD'S SYMMETRIKIT CHAIR in beige dralon. Includes footrest, lap strap and tray. £350 ono. Tel: (01642) 558422.

ELECTRIC SCOOTER. LARK three wheeled vehicle plus battery charger. Easily portable. Any trial. £495. Contact Thomas on tel: (01943) 874112 (evenings).

NIMBUS II FLOTATION mattress. Used for six months only. As new with instruction book and control box. Save £1,060. Price £2,200. Tel: 0161-439 4261.

SUNRUNNER ELECTRIC SCOOTER. Used once. Bought June 1995. Full one year guarantee. Cost £1,400. Require £950. Tel: 0181-760 5617.

Are you a Wheelchair User?

Is getting out of your chair into your car becoming more and more difficult, painful or just too much for your driver and carer?

A Chairman Car means no more transferring, no more lifting, just travelling with the family, whenever you choose, in comfort.

Ring us FREE on
0800 220878 for
your full colour
information pack.

GOWRINGS MOBILITY



Miles ahead.



Style • Space • Comfort • Economy

Easy access conversions and mini-coaches for
Very Important Passengers

Phone 01428 751675 now for your information pack.

Don't miss these latest AMK developments:

- **NEW 'Glide-away' access ramps**
- **NEW 'Cushion Ride' air & lowering suspension systems**
- **NEW 'Velortex' interior trim**

AMK leads the way in advanced design of family tourers, easy access and community transport mini-coaches from one to 16 seaters. Practical and spacious, reliable and stylish, each vehicle is built to meticulous quality standards to meet individual needs. Choose from a wide range of options to suit every budget. Talk to us today and put yourself miles ahead.

SPECIALIST
CONVERTORS OF
MINI-COACHES
& WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE
VEHICLES

AMK
AUTOMOTIVE



Mill Lane Passfield Liphook Hampshire GU30 7RP
Tel: 01428 751675 Fax: 01428 751677

The Lynx Hand Control

The ONLY control that transfers from car to car. Fits in 5 minutes - removal takes seconds.

Your driving freedom will cost less than you think. For more details call: Lynx Hand Control Ltd., on 01695 573816.

HIRE WITH EUROCAR
WITH LYNX HAND CONTROLS

NIAGARA MASSAGE PADS, hand units. Adjustable massage beds, reclining massage chairs, nearly new, half prices, reconditioned, year warranty, guaranteed first class goods. Part exchanges, repairs, COD, Access, Visa accepted. Tel: (01460) 61157.

Personals held over until next month due to lack of space

Personal



In a Crisis

Helplessness • Anxiety • Longing
Anger • Sadness • Hurt • Fear
Despair

Whatever you're going through,
we'll go through it with you.
Please Phone, Visit or Write

The Samaritans

0345 90 90 90

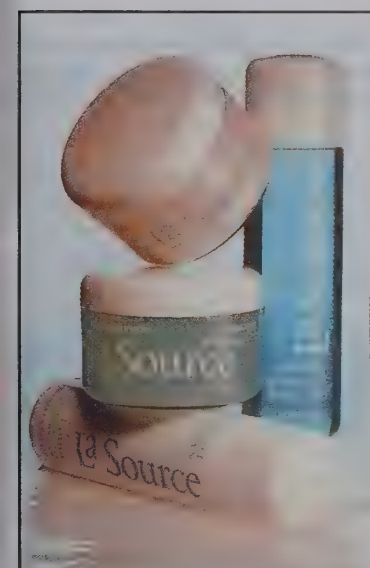
(Calls charged at local rate)

Over £1,400 worth of free summer giveaways

Enter now and you could win one of these fabulous free gifts in our bumper bonanza. One postcard per offer.

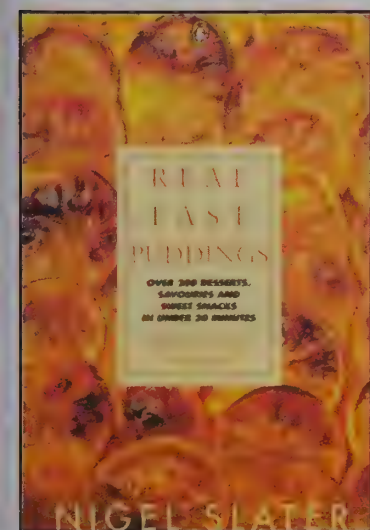
10 250ml bottles of Crabtree & Evelyn's La Source Soothing Body Lotion

Pamper yourself with this lotion, designed to relax and energise your body from head to toe. With minerals rich in nutrients, botanical extracts and vitamin-rich oils, it will condition your skin and leave you totally refreshed. *Send your name and address to La Source Offer, DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.*



10 Real Fast Puddings by Nigel Slater

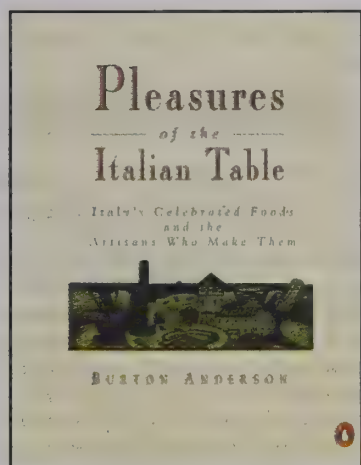
This book from Penguin has loads of mouth-watering desserts for all year round and includes some indulgent summer puddings using the best of the season's fruits. *For your copy send your name and address to Puddings Offer, Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.*



10 Zuma sunglasses from Anglo American Eyewear

Would you like some new shades to keep out those rays? We've got five men's and five women's Zuma sunglasses to give away.

Anglo American have been making stylish sunglasses since 1882. These high quality sunglasses are made from comfortable, non allergenic plastic and meet European Community safety requirements. *Send your name and address, marking your entry men or women, to Sunglasses Offer, DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.*



10 Pleasures of the Italian Table, by Burton Anderson

This book from Penguin tells you all you need to know about Italian cuisine. Anderson travels the country sampling and savouring regional flavours. With suggestions for buying, storing and serving foods. *Send entries to Italian Offer, DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.*



20 200ml Laboratoires Garnier Ambre Solaire Photostable High Protection Milk SPF15

We all know that the sun's rays can be harmful (*see centre-spread*) so make sure you are protected with this factor 15 suntan lotion. Perfect for use throughout the summer, you can enjoy the rays and stay safe. *To win one of 20 bottles send your name and address to Ambre Solaire Offer, Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.*

50 50ml Tisserand Lavender Aromatherapy Soothing Gels

Sunburn, skin complaints, stress, pollution and insect bites can all make skin flare up or itch and flake.

Bring relief to tired or irritated skin with this beautifully perfumed cooling gel from Tisserand Aromatherapy.

It is a unique blend of aromatic lavender, which is antiseptic and calming, with yarrow water, known for its astringent qualities. *Send your name and address to Lavender Offer, Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.*



Winning entries will be pulled from a hat. Offers not open to DN staff or associates.

Make the sunshine last all year...

Subscribe to *DN* and you'll never miss out on the best offers, news and jobs. Fill in the coupon below, return it to us and *DN* will be delivered to your door every month.

- Individual at home address – £14 (12 issues) ☐
 £27 (24 issues) ☐
 Professional/organisation – £19 (12 issues) ☐
 £37 (24 issues) ☐
 Disabled person on income support – Free ☐
 (Please enclose a photocopy of your entitlement notice or the front cover of your order book showing your name.)
 Overseas (airmail) – £30 (12 issues) ☐

Name

Address

.....Postcode

Pay by credit card or cheque
 Tel: 0171-383 4575

Multiple copy rates available on request

DisabilityNOW

Please return to:
 DN, 12 Park Crescent,
 FREEPOST 17,
 London W1E 3HU,
 tel: 0171-383 4575.

For sale continued

ELECTRIC RECLINING CHAIR for disabled person. Heating vibrating pads. Brown velvet. Cost £1,700. Bargain £450. Tel: (01494) 436628.

SEAT VISTA CHAIRMAN 1990. Wheelchair passenger access via ramp. Low mileage. Bargain £3,495. Tel: 0181-207 1330.

ELECTRICALLY OPERATED CHAIR. A J Way multi chair riser recliner. Almost new. £795. Tel: (01923) 774569.

BATRICAR FOUR WHEELS KABIN. Very low mileage. Excellent condition. Charger etc. £1,500. Tel: (01923) 774569.

ADAPTED GO-KART. Fun kart with 100cc Honda engine and hand controls to suit able-bodied/disabled person from age six to 18 plus. Use on tarmac or grass. £350. Trailer available. Tel: (01452) 412071.

V W CARAVELLE. 2 litre. Manual. M reg. 4,500 miles. Invatravel conversion. Side door. Access lift. Clamping for wheelchair. Full harness. £7,500 ono. Tel: 0181-959 7755.

THERAPOSTURE SINGLE BED. Remote controlled adjustable head/foot massage. As new. £400. Tel: 0171-607 7399.

FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN van. Light blue. C reg. 1300cc. One year's MOT. Lowering suspension and ramp. 38,000 miles. Sale due to bereavement. Cost £6,500. Will sell for £2,800 ono. Tel: (01634) 864875 (Kent).

CHAIRMAN VISTA. RED. Excellent condition. Rear ramp. Safety belts. H reg. Seats four plus wheelchair. £4,500. Tel: (01372) 456158 or 0171-272 7995.

MANUAL RISER CHAIR. Wine colour. £100 ono. Also car swivel seat. Pulls out over kerb. Fits most cars. £150 ono. Tel: (01279) 423727 (Essex).

LUXURY MINIBUS. Superb conversion. Renault Trafic H reg. 24,000 FSH Ricon auto rear lift for wheelchair passenger. Five reclining/swivel seats. Picnic table. Radio cassette, many extras. £7,995. Tel: (01142) 303773 (Sheffield).

LARK FOUR WHEEL electric scooter with charger. Very good condition. £1,500 ono. Tel: (01403) 730395 (anytime).

ELLISTON HOSPITAL BED. Complete. Good working order. Relatively new. £200 ono. Tel: (01249) 750292.

MOTOR CARAVAN COMPASS Drifter. Sleeps four. Fully equipped. Fridge, cooker, toilet, shower. Wheelchair accessible by electric lift. 1991. Good condition. £19,500 ono. Tel: (01372) 468309.

ORTHO-KINETICS TRAVEL chair. Suit child aged 5-15 years with small and large seats. Colour blue. Five years old. Cost £1,000 new. Accept £450 ono. Tel: (01926) 316757 (Warwickshire).

SEAT TERRA VAN adapted for wheelchair. F reg. Petrol. 80,000 miles. MOT July. Very economical. Good condition. £11,100 ono. Tel: (01256) 389535.

TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES please contact the Advertisement Manager, Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Limited, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Tel: 0171-252 1362. Fax: 0171-237 8019.

Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

Recruitment continued



LORD MAYOR TRELOAR SCHOOL in Hampshire

a non-maintained residential special school for the education of young people with disabilities, supported by the Treloar Trust, Registered Charity No. 307103.

is offering an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic,

FULL-TIME SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPIST

to work at this well-resourced school. Set in beautiful surroundings, there is easy access to London and the South Coast. The successful applicant will work as part of a multi-disciplinary team contributing to the educational development and independence of the students. An interest and some experience in AAC systems is desirable.

Hours: 42 hours per week. Accommodation may be available. School holidays with pay. Excellent occupational pension scheme.

Salary: According to Whitley Council Grades for Speech Therapists Grade 2 in the range of Points 21-26.

For further details or to arrange an informal visit please telephone Mrs Sue Crampton, Head Speech and Language Therapist on 01420 547463.

Closing date: Friday, 7 June 1996. **Interview date:** Wednesday, 19 June 1996.

For job description and application form please telephone

The Personnel Officer on 01420 22199.

The Personnel Office, Treloar Trust, Upper Froyle, Alton, Hants GU34 4JX

THE TRELOAR TRUST IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

CHIEF EXECUTIVES

SHOPMOBILITY SCHEME CO-ORDINATOR

ACT5 £13,581-£14,892 per annum (Ref No. 981)

The above post has been established to set up and manage the new Shopmobility Scheme to be based in the Westgate Car Park.

The scheme will provide wheelchairs and powered scooters to help people who have limited mobility to shop and use facilities within Oxford City Centre. The post will be based within the Chief Executive's Department for the first year.

Key duties/responsibilities:

- Develop, promote and manage the Shopmobility Scheme.
- Recruit and manage volunteers.
- Manage the paid Shopmobility Assistant post.
- Establish and maintain consultative procedures with local traders and scheme users.

Key essential criteria:

- An understanding of the difficulties experienced by people with disabilities
- Understanding of the issues around recruitment and management of volunteers.
- Good interpersonal and organisational skills.
- Ability to set up and maintain accurate record keeping systems.
- **Closing Date: Friday 14th June 1996.**

SHOPMOBILITY SCHEME ASSISTANT

ACT2 £10,194-£10,686 per annum (Ref No. 982)

The above post has been established to assist the Shopmobility Scheme Co-ordinator to set up and run the new Shopmobility Scheme to be based in the Westgate Car Park.

The Scheme will provide wheelchairs and powered scooters to help people who have limited mobility to shop and use facilities within Oxford City Centre. The post will be based within the Chief Executive's Department for the first year.

Key duties/responsibilities:

- To assist the Scheme Co-ordinator to promote and run the Shopmobility Scheme.
- Provide a conveyancing service to shopmobility users between designated arrival point and central shopping facilities.
- Assist scheme users in use of mobility equipment.
- Operate the booking system and maintain records.

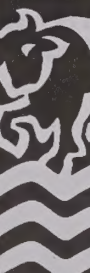
Key essential criteria:

- An understanding of the difficulties experienced by people with disabilities.
- Ability to collect and deliver electronic and manual wheelchairs and scooters from locations within the City.
- Ability to assist scheme users transfer to mobility equipment.
- Ability to maintain records and operate a booking system.
- **Closing Date: Friday 14th June 1996.**

For Further Information

- Applications are particularly welcome from Black and Minority Ethnic communities to apply as they are under-represented in all the above areas of work. Section 38(1)b of the Race Relations Act 1976 applies.
- Application forms and job descriptions are available from the:
**Human Resources Division,
MacMillan House, 38 St Aldate's,
Oxford, OX1 1BN.
Telephone 01865 252465.
Your call will be received by an
answerphone service.**
- During normal office hours (for the hearing impaired only) our minicom number is 01865 252032. Please note that the Recruitment Office is closed every Thursday between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm for staff training.
- All application forms must be returned to the Human Resources Division.

Working towards equal opportunities



CANDO Information Service, Lancaster University Development and Research Officer Salary c. £14,000-£17,000 depending on experience.

You will assist the Director in the development of "CANDO", a new employment database/information service on the Internet, serving disabled university students and graduates across the UK. This is, initially, a three year full-time post, funded by the National Lottery Charities Board. Disabled applicants are particularly welcome.

You will be actively involved in electronic publishing: editing and uploading text, dealing with inquiries; and researching information and opportunities. You must be comfortable in working with disabled people and disability organisations.

Ideally, we would like a colleague who has: a recent degree (any discipline); lots of initiative; excellent organisational skills (deadlines and time management); wide-ranging communications and interpersonal skills; an eye for detail and a bit of creativity too; a sense of humour; basic computer literacy and is not afraid to learn much, much more!

For a complete job description and application form, contact:

**Personnel Services, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YW
or on telephone 01524 593186**

Please also enclose with your application a CV and letter expressing why you think you'd make a good person for the job.

Closing date is Wednesday, June 19. Interviews will be held on July 9 and 10.

Hammersmith and Fulham Action for Disability Leisure Services Support Worker - 1st Chance Project

Part-time 21 hours a week **£18,786 pa pro rata**
HAFAD works for the benefit of disabled people in the borough and provides a range of services. We are looking for a disabled person to work with the 1st Chance Development Worker.

The Project works to improve opportunities and access for younger disabled people in learning and leisure services. Our activities are wide ranging and include projects which encourage autonomy, choice and a sense of empowerment.

The work is varied and includes organising our transport service, assisting with the school holidays youth scheme, facilitating the monthly talking newspaper, managing the usage of our edit suite and recruiting a pool of volunteers.

This position is offered on a one year contract initially.

Application packs are available from

HAFAD, Beaufort House, 49 Lillie Road, London SW6 1UD

Telephone 0171 385 2156 (voice and minicom).

Closing date for receipt of applications is 17th June 1996.

HAFAD is working towards becoming an equal opportunities employer.

Charities Act 1960 No. 285934

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The Spinal Injuries Association is the national organisation for spinal cord injured people, offering support, advice and information to spinal cord injured people. An exciting new challenge exists for an enthusiastic and outgoing person to expand our membership base. This post would ideally suit a disabled person with an interest in people and the ability to generate interest and enthusiasm in others.

The post-holder can be home-based (minimum one day per week attendance at SIA's London office) and will be responsible for the recruitment of new members through Spinal Injuries Units, local groups, new initiatives and by contact with the wider community.

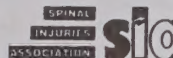
Although no previous experience is essential, candidates will need to demonstrate a sound understanding of SIA and its ethos, have the ability to communicate and generate interest in the work of the Association and be will to travel extensively in order to promote SIA.

Details from: **Spinal Injuries Association, 76 St James's Lane, Muswell Hill, London N10 3DF (Tel: 0181 444 2121).**

Closing date for completed applications: 21st June 1996.

SIA is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications from disabled people.

Registered Charity Number 1054097.



SLEEP TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION AGENTS REQUIRED

In order to further expand our sales of electronically adjustable beds into the Special Need Market, Sleep Technology wish to appoint effective Agents to manage and develop all areas of the U.K.

Ideally the person should be well connected in the Special Needs Market calling on Specialist Needs Retail outlets but consideration will be given to experienced Sales Executives who have a desire to establish their own Agency business.

A high level of commitment will be expected by the Company, but the successful applicant can be assured of first class service and support from a quality organisation with above average commissions.

Applicants should contact, in writing:

**Mr Geoff Badrock
C & C Contracts Division
Unit 82 First Avenue
The Pensnett Trading Estate
Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 7NA**

Scope (formerly The Spastics Society) is the UK's largest charity working with disabled people. For over 40 years we have been providing help, advice and practical resources to people with cerebral palsy, their families and carers. Scope offers the support people need to take control of their lives.

Scope is developing its management teams and reorganising its structure to provide a more vibrant, coherent organisation which can enhance our ability to meet the needs of people who use our services. The main elements of these changes comprise a programme which is now known as 'Scope Towards 2005'.

The changes are also designed to achieve greater efficiency and an improved financial position. To complete our new Executive Director group we are seeking to fill two posts.

Executive Directors are expected to demonstrate an awareness of the needs and aspirations of people with cerebral palsy, their families and carers and a desire to further their cause. You must be committed to our mission and aim, and have a genuine desire to enhance, value and develop the contribution of staff and volunteers. In particular you will have the ability to develop effective working relationships with our Trustees and Local Affiliated Groups. Your ability to think creatively about complex matters and undertake strategic planning activity are essential, together with excellent interpersonal skills. Your commitment to providing high quality responsive services to others together with a demonstrable ability to relate openly and honestly across all levels will be invaluable.

Executive Director of Human Resources

circa £54,000 plus lease car

The Division encompasses Scope's personnel, training and development, payroll, equal opportunities and health and safety functions. Its key objectives are to develop a framework and plan for the management of change within Scope, to lead this process, and to continue the implementation of Scope's People Policy and strategy.

An experienced HR professional, you will have a degree, equivalent level professional qualification or a proven ability to analyse and communicate at this level; a minimum of five years' successful senior management experience in one or more fields of human resource management, preferably in the public or voluntary sectors; a demonstrable understanding of the main legal, technical and professional elements of human resource management and the main social, technical, economic and political factors which may affect the employment and development of staff and volunteers in a voluntary organisation.

For an information pack and application form (our application form can be made available in disk format on request) (no CVs) contact Beryl Hammond, Scope, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Tel: 0171-636 5020 ext. 303. Fax: 0171-436 2601.

Closing date for return of completed applications: 7th June 1996.

Working Towards Equality

SCOPE
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Executive Director of Management Services

circa £54,000 plus lease car

The Division contains Scope's finance, property and embryonic central purchasing and IS/IT functions.

You will have a degree, equivalent level professional qualification or a proven ability to analyse and communicate at this level; a professional accountancy qualification; minimum of five years' successful senior management experience in finance and/or other support service functions (excluding human resources/personnel) and a demonstrable understanding of the main technical and professional aspects of financial management, purchasing, the development of information technology and property management as they relate to the voluntary sector.

You will be committed to establishing customer-focused financial systems and resources for managers and staff. This will allow Scope to bring its financial affairs fully under control and achieve the optimum financial outcome from our management of property and development of central purchasing and IT.

Development Officer Of People With Disabilities Services For Adults

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

18 Hours Per Week For 1 Year
£10,222 - £10,971 inc per annum

This Short Term post has a key role to play in the development of services and strategies for people with disabilities resident in the Borough.

Key tasks will include researching and formulating proposals for service, developments, including a 'one stop service' and identifying funding opportunities. Developing and implementing user involvement strategies will be a key area of work.

The postholder will have a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the needs of this customer group, an ability to research models of service provision, and excellent organisational and communication skills. Knowledge of Services for people with disabilities is required. Applications are particularly welcome from people with disabilities, and people from ethnic minorities who are under represented in the service.

For a job information pack please ring 0181-894-5544 (and ask for the personnel answer machine or Minicom 0181-893-4404 (24 hour answer-phone) or write to: Disability Team, Fortescue House, Stanley Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 5PZ, quoting Reference No. SS/A/669.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 5.00pm 14th June 1996.



LONDON BOROUGH OF
RICHMOND UPON THAMES

an equal opportunities employer



Health Advocate

for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

This exciting new post will involve working with people from the London boroughs of Tower Hamlets, City and London, Hackney and Newham.

Hours: 35 per week.

Salary: Spinal Point 32 - £18,717 plus London Weighting of £2,211.

Conditions: 1 year fixed term contract.

Applicants must:

1. Be deaf or hard of hearing.
2. Have an awareness of issues relating to the deaf and hard of hearing community.
3. Be able and willing to work with a variety of health professionals.
4. Have an understanding of the principles of advocacy.
5. Be fluent in English and BSL - CACDP or equivalent.

For further details of this post contact:

The Disability Advocacy Network
c/o The Disability Resource Centre
40/50 Southern Grove
London E3 4PX

Tel. No. 0181 980 2200. Mini-Com No. 0181 981 0377

Closing date: June 30, 1996.

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE TRUST

Project Manager

Ref: PM £16,717 - £19,444 p.a.

The Learning from Experience Trust (LET) is an independent charity, currently based at and supported by Anglia Polytechnic University at its central campus in Chelmsford.

LET is about to commence its *Recognising Ability* project, funded by the National Lottery Charities Board, and has created the post of Project Manager.

As Project Manager, your role will be to design and pilot a pack for use by people with disabilities to enable them to obtain recognition from employers and educators for what they have learnt through their own experience, working both with people with disabilities and with some of the agencies serving them.

Reporting to the Director of LET, you will be responsible for the successful delivery of the project within a one year timescale and

funding limits. You must be aware of issues facing people with disabilities in seeking employment, training or education as well as having a demonstrable track record in Project Management.

Employed by Anglia and seconded to the Trust you will work as part of a team, comprising the Director, Administrator and Secretary.

Informal enquiries may be addressed to the Learning from Experience Trust on tel/fax: (01245) 348779; e-mail: letac@ford.anglia.ac.uk

Closing date is Friday 14 June 1996.

Further information and application details for this post are available in Braille, large print and disk format, on request from the Human Resources Department, Anglia Polytechnic University, East Road, Cambridge, CB1 1PT, telephone (01223) 363271 ext 2459 (24 hours).

anglia
polytechnic
university



Creating Quality Opportunities in Higher Education



NATIONAL
LOTTERY
CHARITIES
BOARD

For sale continued

ARMCHAIR FOR SALE. Electric lift and recline hand set control. Full electro body massage designed to ease back pain, arthritis etc. New £800 ono. Tel: 0181-524 3253.

BEC STERLING SCOOTER. Fully transportable. Lights, indicators and horn. Excellent condition. Cost £2,045. Accept £1,200. Tel: (01746) 765524.

VITESSE 3 MOBILE wheelchair. Good condition. Battery charger included. Price £800 ono. Regular service. Tel: (01249) 750292 for details.

CHAIRMAN METRO TRANSPORTER. Mobility International conversion. C reg. Good condition. 14,000 miles. Current MOT July '96. Takes wheelchair driver and passengers. Price £2,500 ono. Tel: (01249) 750292.

WHEELCHAIR. LARK FOUR electric scooter. £1,300. Two years old. Excellent condition. Contact Mrs Fullstone on tel: (01443) 407001.

MAYTAG COMMERCIAL WASHING machine. Excellent condition. Two years old. Little used. Pre-payment token facility. Ideal for residential care home. £950 ono. Tel: 0161-445 7741.

YOU'LL BE CENTRAL TO OUR THINKING

A deep commitment to meeting the needs of our community lies at the very heart of our policies. Shaping the services that do this requires both an understanding of the individuals who make up Enfield's rich and diverse culture and a broad knowledge of the issues that affect us all - nationally and internationally.

We now need to establish a team of policy professionals to inform, define and shape the thinking that will guarantee democracy, quality and equality. Effecting change within the Authority presents a very real challenge and requires a blend of commitment and realism if it is to succeed. There is a strong framework of support already in place that reflects the central role the team's work will play in our future.

A Senior Policy Officer for Customer Service and CCT will shortly be in post and the following professionals will complete the team.

COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER UP TO £28,137 P.A. INC.

Working alongside the local community and voluntary groups, you will raise the profile of the Council, develop the grant-aid process and ensure that the Council's policies are influenced by community views. Committed and enthusiastic, you will have practical experience of development work within a local community, good management skills and the ability to form good working relationships easily at all levels.

SENIOR POLICY OFFICER EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES UP TO £28,137 P.A. INC.

Your experience within equal opportunities will play an important part in ensuring that the Council provides democracy and support to all sections of the community. You will build up and nurture relationships providing specialist advice to key people to further raise awareness and understanding of this important issue within the Council. Highly committed to equality of opportunity, you will have a strong track record in ensuring its delivery within large organisations. You will have in-depth knowledge of issues surrounding ethnic minorities, women and people with disabilities. The ability to forge strong relationships within community groups will be key.

POLICY OFFICERS UP TO £25,695 P.A. INC. 2 POSTS

To provide a general advice and consultancy service to the Council and assist in developing strategic direction and the Council's Action Plan. This will include issues such as urban regeneration, establishing community needs, provision of quality services and budget strategy. Well developed skills in policy analysis and development gained within a large organisation, a knowledge of service performance and measures and the ability to manage projects are essential.

All posts require enthusiastic and creative people with a good understanding of the importance of "networking", who can work as part of the team and who are totally committed to the development of the highest quality service.

As an equal opportunities employer we positively welcome applications from all ethnic groups and people with disabilities.

For an application form and further details contact the Chief Executive's Personnel Unit, PO Box 52, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 3XA. Tel: 0181 982 7057.

Minicom users only 0181 967 9222.

Closing date: 14th June 1996.



WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES.
WE OFFER A SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENT.

Croydon Association of People with Disabilities

PART-TIME ADMINISTRATOR

(£7,676 pa, inc OLW, 20 hours per week, pay award pending.

CAPD aims to increase the independence of disabled people and enable their full participation in the community.

It is seeking a Part-time administrator to run its office and to provide admin. support to the Executive Committee. Preference will be given to disabled applicants.

For an application form and further information, please contact:

CAPD, 487a Purley Way, Croydon, CR0 4RG

Telephone 0181 760 9927/Minicom 0181 680 7004

Closing date: Monday 17 June 1996.

Charity Reg. No. 803276

Programming Work at Home

Miller Starr, a database marketing company, have a number of programming projects which can be done on a part/full time basis working from home, or from our offices in Camden.

Each project is offered on a contract basis, and needs to be completed to an agreed time-scale, quality and cost.

You will need to have proven programming experience with any of the following: Visual Basic, Visual C++, Visual Foxpro or Foxpro 2.x, Oracle or Access.

Please send CV, quoting reference NG0596E to:



miller starr

database marketing

20 Kentish Town Road, London NW1 9NX

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT

Disability Policy Officer

UP TO £23,500 P.A. INC. PLUS UP TO 10% PRP

This is a newly created post in the Chief Executive's department. It is for an initial two year fixed term contract.

You will research the needs of disabled people in Westminster and develop corporate policies to address these, managing an annual budget of approximately £30,000 to fund research and initiatives. You will also have responsibility for co-ordinating the Council's implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act.

This calls for a unique blend of skills - experience of developing and implementing corporate policies in a large organisation, combined with knowledge and awareness of disability issues. The ability to communicate effectively at all levels to ensure successful implementation of policy, experience in operating with minimum supervision and a track record of developing policy in a sensitive and consultative manner are essential.

Benefits include: ■ generous annual leave ■ interest free annual season ticket loan ■ free swimming facilities ■ staff discount card ■ excellent pension scheme.

For an application form please telephone 0171 798 1996 or 0171 798 1997 which is staffed from 9.00am - 4.30pm. An answerphone is in operation out of office hours.

Please quote ref: CEX/5/DN.

Closing date: 14 June 1996.

Interview date: 24/25 June 1996.

Previous applicants need not apply.

The Council operates a No Smoking at Work Policy.

An Equal Opportunities Employer.



City of Westminster

For sale continued

EVEREST AND JENNINGS outdoor electric wheelchair. Very good condition. £850. Tel: (01527) 528003.

VOLVO 340, G REG, under 14,000 miles. Automatic. Power assisted steering. Three doors. Built in electric hoist. Lifts electric wheelchair (included) and passenger into passenger seat position. £6,500. Tel: (01942) 811094 (West Houghton).

Help wanted

CAN YOU ASSIST a single parent (dad) take daughter with cerebral palsy away for summer holiday (late July/August). Destination to be decided. All expenses paid to sincere, patient and caring female with good sense of humour. Please tel: (01932) 564774.

Wanted

AIR MILES WANTED. Also Shell SMART points. Cash paid. Tel: (01273) 689578.

AUTOMATIC VEHICLE for wheelchair passenger. Tel: 0181-500 7451.

MODERN TAIL LIFT. Tel: 0114-236138

Student placements

ARE YOU A STUDENT looking for work experience? The Blue River Project is a registered charity serving people with learning disabilities and their carers. They have student placements available. For more information tel: 0171-231 7056.

Disability Now

£1.40 June 1996

The award winning newspaper for everyone with an interest in disability

Lottery cowboys

Unscrupulous companies are conning disability charities into employing them as consultants for bids to the National Lottery. See Page 1.

Features

HOLIDAY TIME
How to play safe
in the sun



JUNE BRIDES
Look a million dollars
— for less than £150



Jobs
pages 32-35

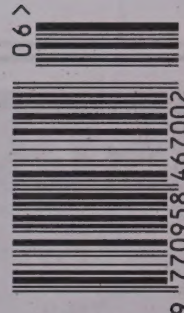
£1400
of summer
giveaways
inside

The Princess of Wales launches the Push 2000 team on their Land's End-John O'Groats wheelchair marathon. They aim to raise £500,000 for the International Spinal Research Trust.



Regulars

News Focus Should 'R' die?	9
Parent's Voice Put therapy to the test	11
Holidays Best insurance deals	12
Investigation Orange Badge shock	15
TV/Arts Strathcona and Richard III	23



Otto Bock

R E H A



DISTRIBUTORS

Five Towns Care Centre
93 Liverpool Road
STOKE-ON-TRENT
Staffordshire ST4 1AE
Tel & Fax: 01782 744148

GBL Wheelchair Services Ltd
Units 1-3 Shield Drive
BRENTFORD, Middlesex TW8 9EX
Tel: 0181 569 8955
Fax: 0181 560 5380

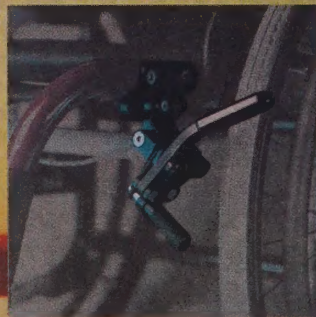
Lakesway
Mobility House, Eastgate
White Lund Estate
MORECAMBE, Lancashire LA3 3DY
Tel: 01524 847766
Fax: 01524 849125

Peter Thompson Wheelchairs Ltd.
3 Colvilles Road, Kelvin Industrial Est.
EAST KILBRIDE, G75 0RS Scotland
Tel: 013552 47147
Fax: 013552 41241

Torbay Mobility Centre
Torbay Industrial Services
Waddeton Close, Brixham Road
PAIGNTON, Devon TQ4 7RZ
Tel: 01803 557992
Fax: 01803 663613



LIGHTWEIGHT



UNIQUE DESIGN



COLOURFUL



PROVEN QUALITY • PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

Otto Bock UK Ltd. 32 Parsonage Road, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey TW20 0JW Tel: 01784 438841 Fax: 01784 438469